BLOCKBUSTER FIRST ISSUE: JUSTICE LEAGUE, GREEN LANTERN, FLASH & **MORE!**

DC NATION

• ISSUE #1

WHO IS ROGOL ZAAR!?

Discover his quest to kill Superman!

BENDIS & SNYDER

The two comics titans face off in their first joint Q&A

THE BATMAN WEDDING!

How Gotham's greatest villains crash the party!

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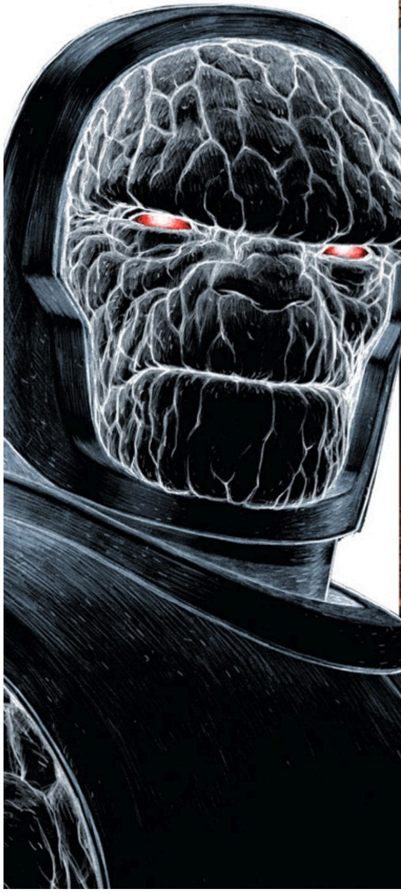

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Letter from DC Publisher Dan DiDio

DC Publisher
DAN DIDIO

Community.

That's what I always wanted DC NATION to represent to both fans and our staff.

Everybody who enjoys our characters, enjoys our stories–whether just one book or every book that we publish–we want to show them thrilling ideas and hear from them about what they're excited about, what they're liking, what they're not liking, and really build that sense of community, so that we become as immersive with one another as we hope our Universe is.

When I first started at DC Comics, I created DC Nation as the voice of the editors and the voice of the company directly to the fans, to lift that curtain up so they get a chance to see what's happening behind the scenes, see how excited we are about our projects, maybe get a little insight into how these books are created and produced, and have them coming away knowing more about DC than any other publisher, and hopefully knowing more about our characters.

It's also a way for us to show that we care.

We know that being a comics fan means more than just reading books; it's an experience, something you like to live and grow with as the characters live and grow. And this gives you a way to see behind the scenes, see how things are made and get excited about what's coming up.

One of the reasons I put my picture at the top of the very first DC Nation column was that I wanted to put a face to the company.

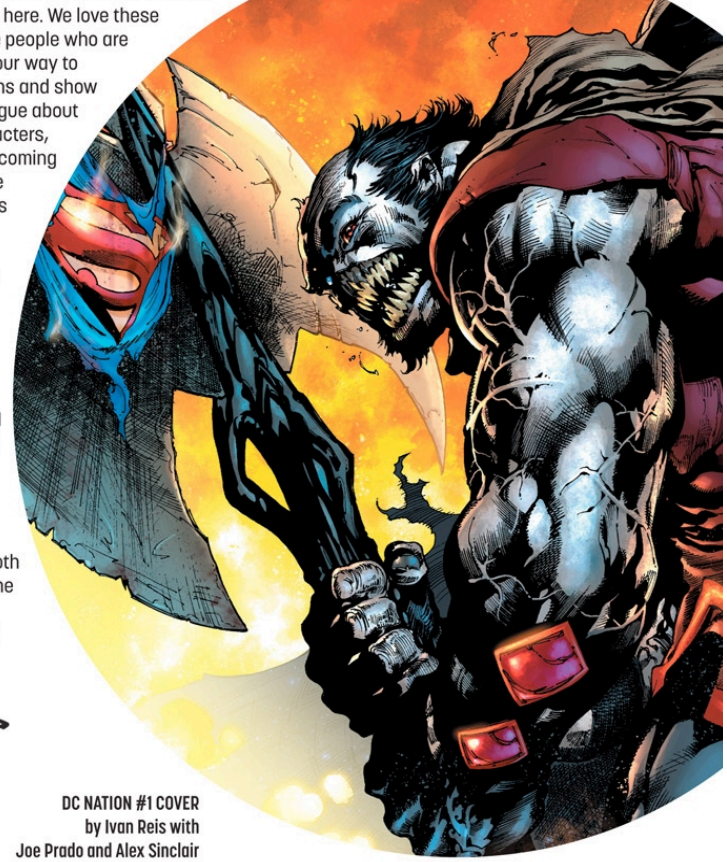
This magazine is not about reading a press release.

It's not about reading a review.

This is about fans speaking to fans. Because one thing that people have to understand is that most of the people who work here at DC are fans of the characters and love the DC Universe. That's why we're here. We love these characters as much as the people who are reading the books. This is our way to express that love to the fans and show you that while we might argue about what happens to the characters, we all understand that it's coming from a good place because we all want the best stories possible.

This summer we'll begin giving you not just some of the best stories possible but some of the biggest in DC's history. From Scott Snyder's JUSTICE LEAGUE to Brian Michael Bendis' first DC work on SUPERMAN and ACTION COMICS to Tom King's Batman/Catwoman wedding, it's only the start of a great new era at DC. I, for one, can't wait to see and hear your reactions (both positive and critical) over the next year.

I'll talk to you again next month.



DC NATION #1 COVER
by Ivan Reis with
Joe Prado and Alex Sinclair

DC INSIDER

How I broke into comics with...

CHRIS SOTOMAYOR

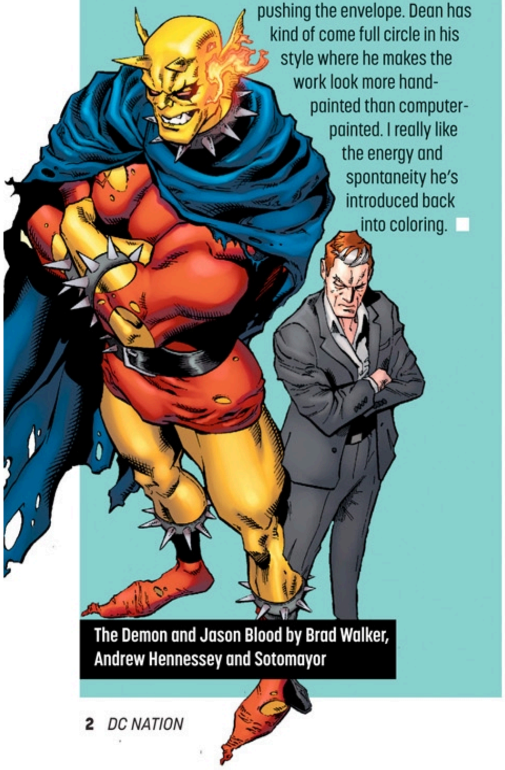
LICE DEPARTMEN

HOW DID YOU GET YOUR FIRST BREAK COLORING COMIC BOOKS?

To put myself through art school I had a job at a supermarket, one which [artist] Denys Cowan used to frequent. I got up the nerve to talk to him one day and he told me he was having a signing. I made sure to be there with my portfolio, and he introduced me to another Milestone founder, Michael Davis. Michael had this new talent program, and that's where I met some artists [and made connections].

WHAT INSPIRES YOUR ART?

I look at other colorists, like Justin Ponsor and Laura Martin, to see what they're doing. Dean White is really pushing the envelope. Dean has kind of come full circle in his style where he makes the work look more hand-painted than computer-painted. I really like the energy and spontaneity he's introduced back into coloring. ◼



The Demon and Jason Blood by Brad Walker, Andrew Hennessey and Sotomayor

YOU ASKED/WE ANSWERED...

The DC staff replies to your burning questions on Twitter!

BENJAMIN PERCY (@BENJAMIN_PERCY)

There were many cool things about working on Teen Titans, but more than anything else, it was the first time I wrote something my kids truly loved. Thanks to the team, especially **@ALEX_ANTONE** and **@MS_BRITTANYJEAN** for the coaching. My final issue drops today.

ALEX ANTONE (@ALEX_ANTONE)

RETWEETED @BENJAMIN_PERCY

The feeling is mutual, Ben! Have fun in Blüdhaven...!

J. CALEB MOZZOCCO (@JKAYLUB)

Question I Will Ask Twitter Because I Never Read The Comics Press Anymore: If **@BRIANMBENDIS** is writing both ACTION COMICS and SUPERMAN, does that mean there will be a triangle number-style thing going on w/ those books, or will they both tell individual but related storylines...?

BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS (@BRIANMBENDIS)

I have no idea **@MICHAELCOTTON @BCUNNINGHAM71**

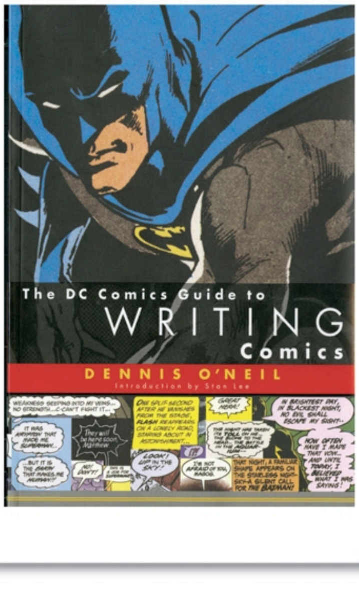
MIKE COTTON (@MICHAELCOTTON) replying to **@BRIANMBENDIS @JKAYLUB @BCUNNINGHAM71** Superman #1 and Action #1001 begin stories that work together in a shared Super-verse/DCU, but you don't have to read both to understand or enjoy either. The triangles, to me, symbolized having to read the books in a specific order.

DAVID PETERKIN (@PETERKINDAVID)

Any such suggestions for an aspiring scribe?

BRIAN CUNNINGHAM (@BCUNNINGHAM71)

Start with Robert McKee's book called STORY. And then try: Story Grid by Shawn Coyne Save the Cat by Blake Snyder The Writer's Journey by Scott Vogler DC Comics Guide to Writing Comics by Dennis O'Neil Understanding Comics by Scott McCloud Comics & Sequential Art by Will Eisner



Rogol Zaar believed he wiped out the Kryptonian race...
...now he'll finish the job and kill Superman!
THE MAN OF STEEL
#1
BY BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS & IVAN REIS
DC
DCCOMICS.COM
ON SALE NOW!
A SIX-ISSUE WEEKLY EVENT!

WHAT I DO...

BENJAMIN LE CLEAR

DC Historian

MY JOB...

I'm the manager of editorial administration for the library archives and collected editions. That means taking care of the current collection, adding to the collection, getting books bound from the current stuff that we're doing and all the research that comes with the library.

ON THE HUNT FOR...

BATMAN #49 (1948). For some reason, that's a single issue that we don't own any copies of. We have a lot of Platinum Age comics that are a lower priority. We're also searching for tons of loose copies to scan of early ACTION COMICS and DETECTIVE COMICS so that we'll someday be able to offer every single title of all time.

DAILY CHALLENGES...

There's so much stuff that needs tender, loving care. Some of these comics are 80 years old, so anytime I scan a Golden Age comic, a little piece of brown paper gets left behind in the scanner. But if we don't get them done now, they get damaged every time you take them out of the bag.

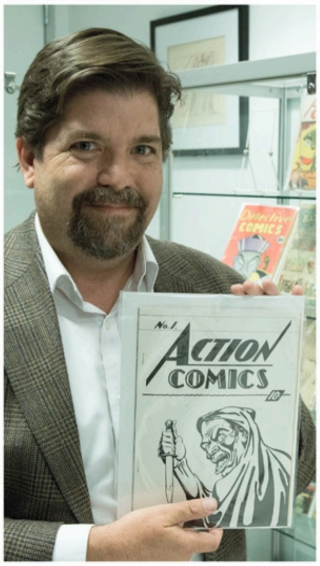
The hardest challenge is that for some of our stuff, there just aren't many copies. There were all of these terrible censorship things that happened in the '50s where kids were burning bonfires full of comic books. And they recycled them in World War II–they used them for paper drives. But what helps us is we're not looking for pristine copies; we're not collectors, we're not looking to resell this stuff. We're just looking for something that's intact and would be a piece of our missing history.

HEAD GAMES...

The weirdest things we have are the heads. What they are are actor molds. So: George Clooney, Chris O'Donnell and Brandon Routh. But because actors own their likenesses, we don't let anyone take photos or use them or anything like that. But it's great! We have a couple of disembodied heads floating around the library.

JOB PERKS...

I never thought I'd see a copy of ACTION COMICS #1, let alone be able to hold the DC house copy. But the thing that we have that's even rarer, and blew my mind, is the ashcan edition of ACTION COMICS #1. There are only three of those left in the world. We have a handful of ashcans, but when I saw that, my mind just exploded. And for coolness, we also have Michelle Pfeiffer's Catwoman whip. ■



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THE BIG COMIC MAGAZINE
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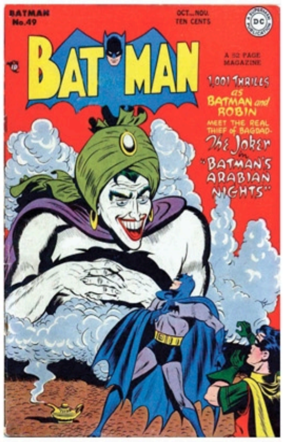
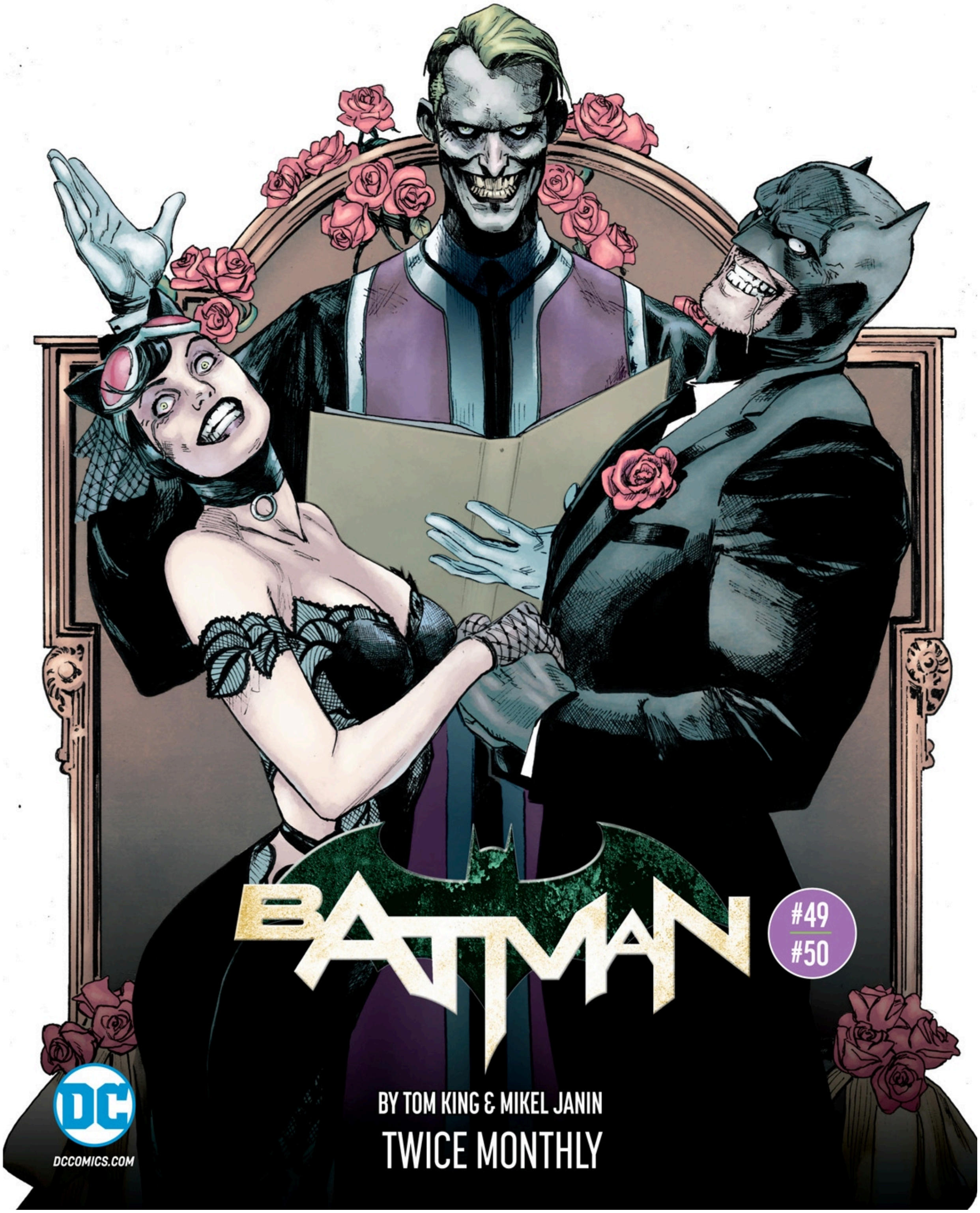

BATMAN No.49
OCT.-NOV. TEN CENTS
BATMAN
A 52 PAGE MAGAZINE
1,001 THRILLS as BATMAN and ROBIN MEET THE REAL THIEF of BAGDAD- The Joker
"BATMAN'S ARABIAN NIGHTS"

Top (left) Le Clear with the ultra-rare ACTION COMICS #1 ashcan, *top (right)* Le Clear reviews 1948's Kellogg's cereal box backs featuring original Superman stories, *middle (left)* Le Clear enters the super-secure DC Archives and vault, *middle (right)* the hard-to-find BATMAN #49, *above*: DC's second floor library and archives.

The shocking conclusion to the Bat and Cat's courtship leads down the aisle in...

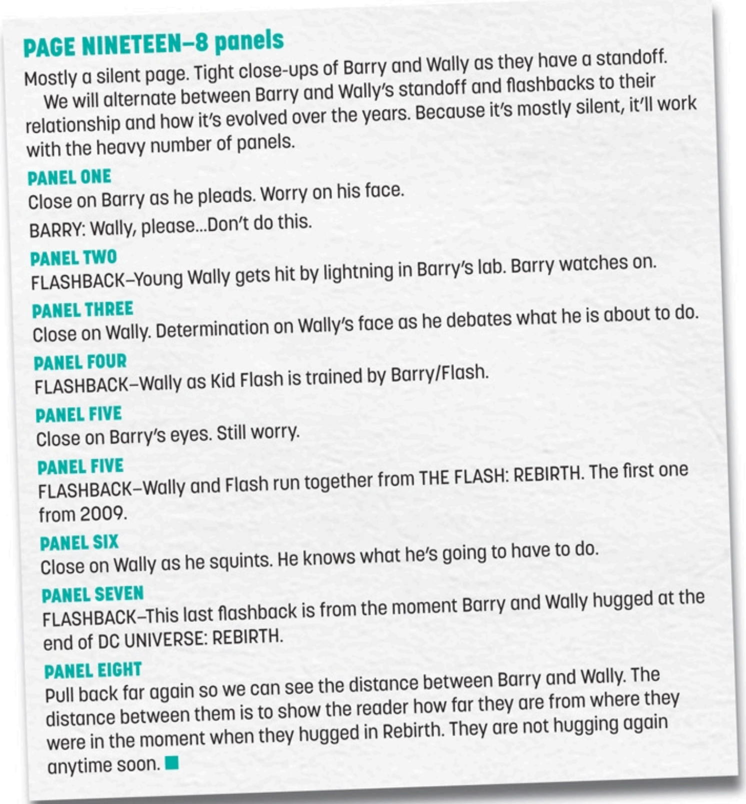


BATMAN
#49
#50
BY TOM KING & MIKEL JANIN
TWICE MONTHLY
DC
DCCOMICS.COM

DC INSIDER

BREAKING DOWN A PAGE

Joshua Williamson, Howard Porter and Hi-Fi's Brian Miller take us inside the creative process of a page from THE FLASH #48!



PAGE NINETEEN—8 panels

Mostly a silent page. Tight close-ups of Barry and Wally as they have a standoff.

We will alternate between Barry and Wally's standoff and flashbacks to their relationship and how it's evolved over the years. Because it's mostly silent, it'll work with the heavy number of panels.

PANEL ONE

Close on Barry as he pleads. Worry on his face.

BARRY: Wally, please...Don't do this.

PANEL TWO

FLASHBACK—Young Wally gets hit by lightning in Barry's lab. Barry watches on.

PANEL THREE

Close on Wally. Determination on Wally's face as he debates what he is about to do.

PANEL FOUR

FLASHBACK—Wally as Kid Flash is trained by Barry/Flash.

PANEL FIVE

Close on Barry's eyes. Still worry.

PANEL FIVE

FLASHBACK—Wally and Flash run together from THE FLASH: REBIRTH. The first one from 2009.

PANEL SIX

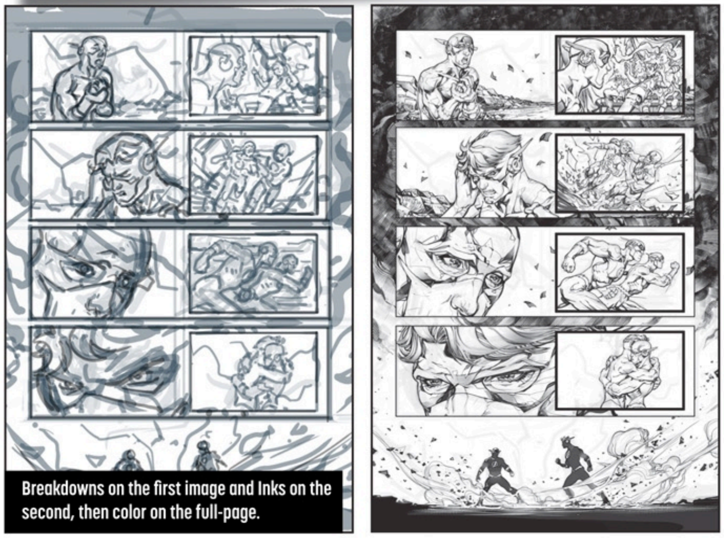
Close on Wally as he squints. He knows what he's going to have to do.

PANEL SEVEN

FLASHBACK—This last flashback is from the moment Barry and Wally hugged at the end of DC UNIVERSE: REBIRTH.

PANEL EIGHT

Pull back far again so we can see the distance between Barry and Wally. The distance between them is to show the reader how far they are from where they were in the moment when they hugged in Rebirth. They are not hugging again anytime soon. ■



Breakdowns on the first image and Inks on the second, then color on the full-page.

JOSHUA WILLIAMSON (writer)

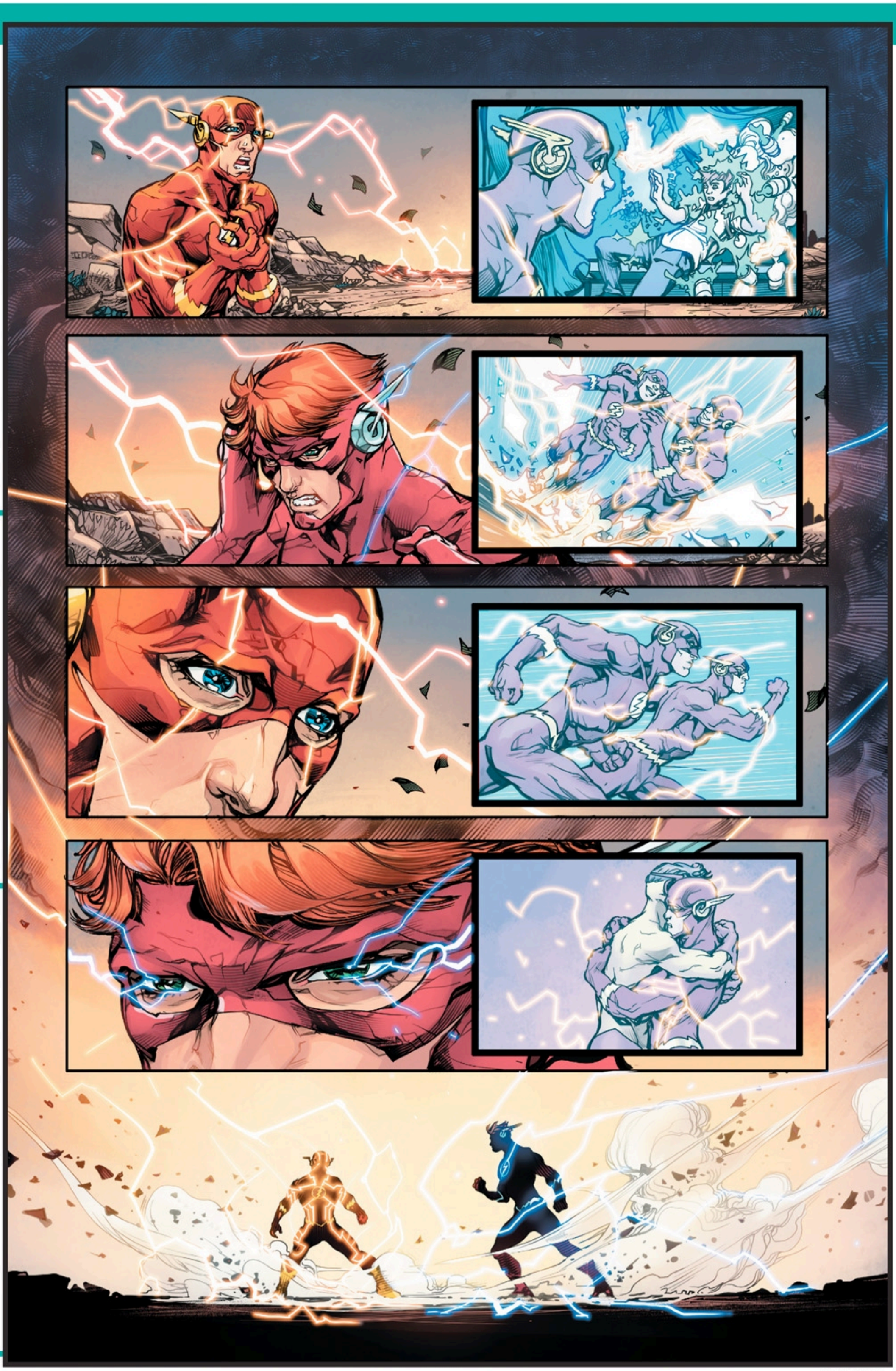
"Howard and I had talked about this moment on the phone and he knew I wanted a mostly silent standoff between Barry and Wally. The hard part came with the emotional weight of the page. They're about to have the biggest race of their lives and I wanted to visually remind the reader of the importance of their relationship."

HOWARD PORTER (art)

"I used inset panels to tie the flashback cuts to Wally and Barry within the main panels into the final scene. Wide gutters between the main panels slow down time and let the storm build while the eye moves down the page, but I kept zooming in to build drama. We pull back to reveal the storm building between these two friends leading to punctuating the scene and creating a page-turning cliffhanger."

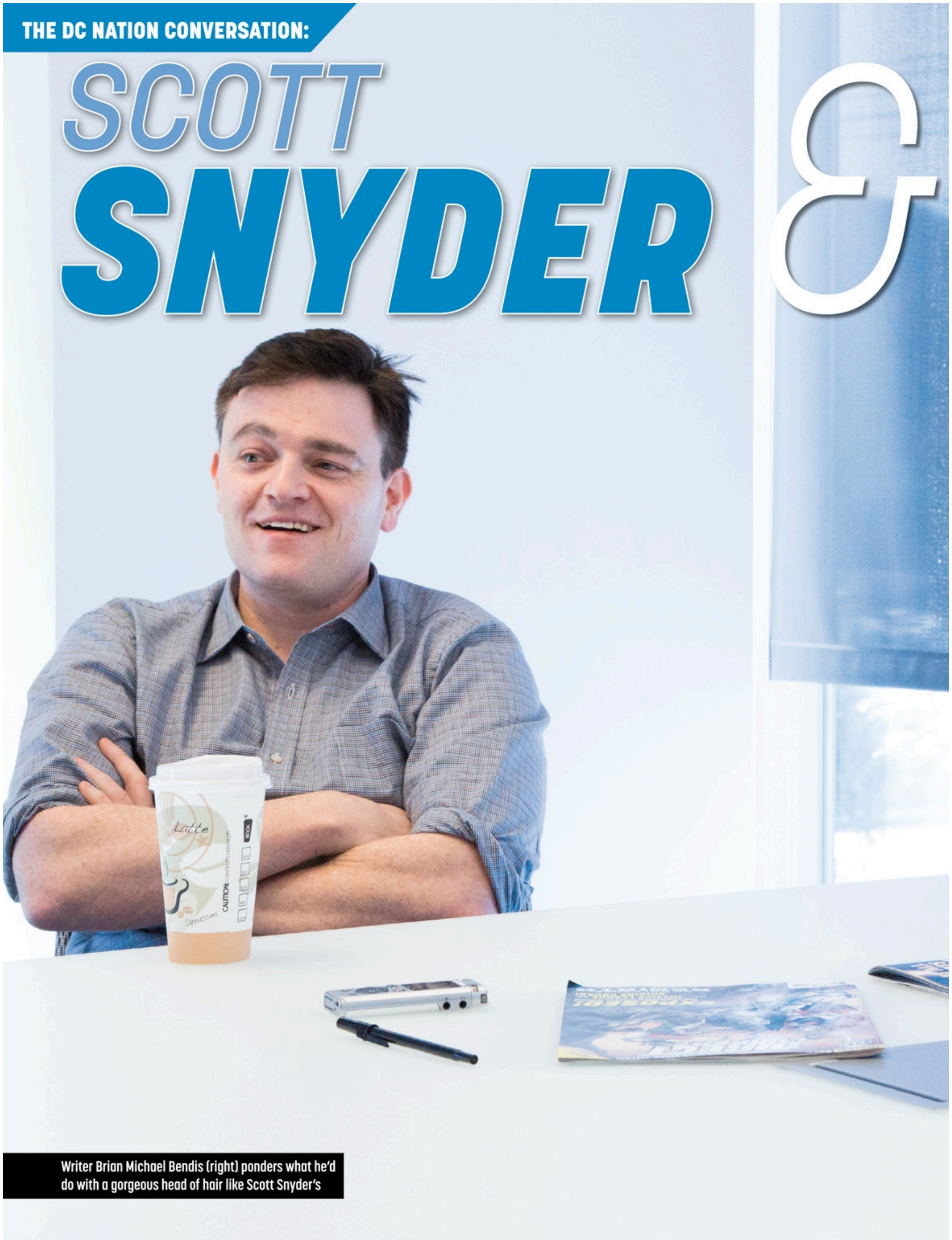
HI-FI'S BRIAN MILLER (color)

"I needed to break down every panel and character to basic flat colors, followed by light sources. The big panel is the foundational anchor for the page, so that's where I start. Moving up the page, the panel gradually becomes darker, less saturated, and shifts from warm to cool. The upper part of the page frames the four horizontal panels, making them a focal point. [I used] different shades of red for Barry and Wally so you know who's who. When coloring a comic, the goal is to complement the storytelling and provide maximum clarity."



THE DC NATION CONVERSATION:

SCOTT SNYDER &



Writer Brian Michael Bendis (right) ponders what he'd do with a gorgeous head of hair like Scott Snyder's

BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS

By Mike Cotton

The two comic giants discuss what they envy about each other's writing, how to avoid rivalries and the exciting future of the DC Universe

DC Comics publisher Dan DiDio raced through Burbank on a covert mission just after sundown in early November.

Canvassing the area surrounding DC Comics' offices near the Warner Bros. studios, the 16-year DC vet searched for Scott Snyder, desperately needing to speak with the creative force behind some of DC's biggest hits of the last decade, including the recent blockbuster DARK NIGHTS: METAL, and a long and much-loved run on DC's flagship BATMAN series.

When DiDio finally found the 42-year-old Long Island native, Snyder assumed it was bad news. No way a top-level corporate exec tracks you down in person to shoot the breeze. "Uh-oh," he thought to himself as he excused himself from a sushi dinner. "This has to be bad news. What happened? Is DC broken? What is it?"

DiDio smiled.

"I have big news, and it's good," the gregarious publisher grinned.

A thousand miles north, Brian Michael Bendis, the primary creative voice of the Marvel Comics universe for the last 19 years, sat at his keyboard with news of his own to deliver, staring at a series of blank, unsent e-mails.

He needed to say good-bye, and he needed to do it now.

Both DiDio and Bendis shared the same fear—that the news of Bendis' unexpected and earth-shaking move from Marvel to DC would leak, and the people they were closest to would learn about it online, through rumors or worse: a sanitized press release

WHO'S WHO

NAME: Scott Snyder
AGE: 42
BORN IN: New York, NY
BEST KNOWN FOR: His meteoric rise from the earliest beginnings of the New 52 to becoming one of DC's highest-selling, most innovative and prolific creators. Highlight works include a lengthy, critically acclaimed and best-selling run on BATMAN with artist Greg Capullo, which introduced the Court of Owls and redefined the Joker; the monstrously successful METAL event; and currently, the twice-monthly JUSTICE LEAGUE.
BEST WRITING ADVICE HE'S RECEIVED: "I had a teacher when I was [in] fourth grade, Ms. Hayworth, who said, 'You have to write the story that you would most want to pick up and find today.' I always start that way. It doesn't matter if it's funny. It doesn't matter if it's political. Whatever it is, it has to be the one that would matter the most to you." ■

> "I think Brian coming in, at this moment when we've been much more communal and connective as a company creatively and also structurally, is just a perfect thing."
> –SCOTT SNYDER

planned for the following morning.

Although current JUSTICE LEAGUE writer Snyder was a longtime admirer of Bendis, the two had only spoken a few times. Still, Snyder reacted enthusiastically to the news: being able to collaborate with one of the most innovative minds in comics opened up a new world of possibilities.

Bendis, although excited about the new opportunities ahead, also worried about the personal relationships he'd built over the last decade-plus of work at Marvel. He carefully crafted e-mail after e-mail to thank everyone who'd helped and supported him over the last two decades at the House of Ideas.

"That night was quite an intense night, because I had to write everyone at Marvel who I have relationships with and love, and say, 'I love you, but I gotta go,'" explains the father of four. "That was really my number one goal, not to hurt anybody's feelings on purpose."

It was a long night for both Bendis and Snyder that ended with the two on the phone, excitedly discussing the possibilities of what lay ahead in the DC Universe.

In our inaugural DC Nation Conversation, we convened with the two superstar scribes inside DC's West Coast offices to relive that first phone call, and discuss the future of the DC Universe and the new energy infecting the DC offices.

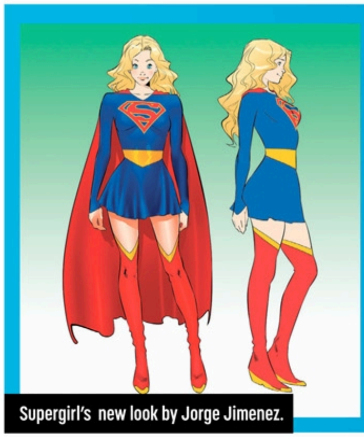
DC NATION: What's the first thing you guys talked about that night?

BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS: No one ever had the birds and the bees talk with him. He heard that from professionals: "If you want to know what sex is like, you should call Brian."

SCOTT SNYDER: I'm not sure he told me the right stuff, but it was entertaining.

BENDIS: It works for me. I didn't say it'd work for you.

SNYDER: But no, to be honest, I've admired Brian for a long time as a writer, and the things that I had heard about him at Marvel were...It's rare that you find somebody that nobody has a bad thing to say about at all, and [everyone] only speaks positively of.



Supergirl's new look by Jorge Jimenez.

SUPERGIRL

The Maid of Steel rockets into space hunting answers about the true cause of Krypton's destruction this summer

Kara Zor-El never forgot Krypton.

Unlike her cousin Superman, Kara actually grew up on the advanced alien world. So when she finds out the planet's destruction may have been caused by rogue individuals and not by a natural disaster, she'll be looking for answers about what really happened to her homeworld in August 8's SUPERGIRL #21.

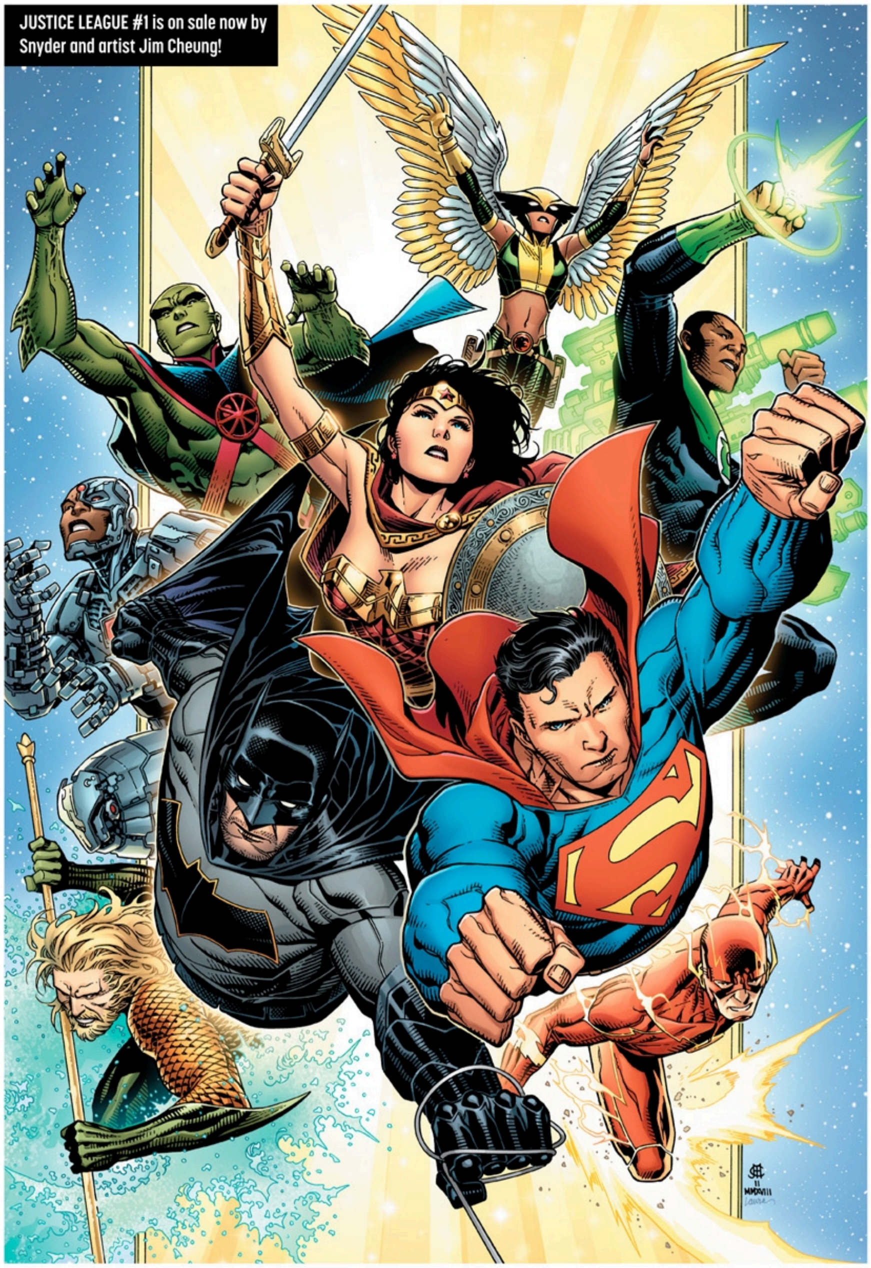
"It is a double privilege to be adding to the Supergirl mythos in this super-anniversary year AND to work with my friend Brian Bendis for the first time since TORSO, almost 20 years ago," says writer Mark Andreyko, who teams with artist Kevin Maguire for the first arc of the series. "The whole Supergirl team is bringing their A game and is excited to propel Kara into a new chapter of greatness! I cannot wait for readers to see where the Girl of Steel is gonna go!" ■

BENDIS: Well, I could point you in the direction of three or four people...

SNYDER: It's true. Everybody was always like, "Oh no, he's great," and [saying] how encouraging he is being in the room [during story discussions]. I called him up about stuff. Again, it was outside comics, and he was so generous with his time, and invited me out to Portland even to talk further. For me, I think we had a foundation which was already a beginning of a friendship, and certainly admiration on my side just for him as a person, as well as a creator.

BENDIS: It's funny...when you're exclusive at one company, you definitely feel like there's people at the other company like, "I'd be friends with them if I had a different life." You know that Seinfeld joke, "Listen, we don't have any openings, but I'll take your application. If something opens up, I'll let you know." Definitely Scott is one of those people. "Oh, I'd totally hang out with that dude."

SNYDER: No, totally. It was the same way. I think starting from a basis like that, like he said, it's easy. You jump into story. Also, both of us come



JUSTICE LEAGUE #1 is on sale now by Snyder and artist Jim Cheung!

WHO'S WHO

NAME: Brian Michael Bendis

AGE: 50

BORN IN: Cleveland, OH

BEST KNOWN FOR: A string of crime fiction indie hits (*Fire, Torso, Jinx, Goldfish*) propelled Bendis to Marvel, where he left a lasting imprint thanks to 15-plus years of work on *Ultimate Spider-Man, Avengers, Alias, Daredevil, Guardians of the Galaxy*, the *X-Men* and much more. Now he's moving on to the Man of Steel at DC, starting this summer.

BEST WRITING ADVICE HE'S RECEIVED: "Finish what you start. You're never gonna find out what kind of writer you are unless you finish what you start. The biggest mistake is [when new writers] write the same seven pages over and over and over again. The first ten pages over and over and over. You get to the tenth page, 'I'm gonna start over again.' You don't know what you're writing. You don't know why you're writing. You don't know what kind of writer you are. You've got to finish what you start, and then start over again." ■

from a place where we're looking to make this year special.

BENDIS: Yep.

SNYDER: To make this year's stuff the best it can be. There's no advice or suggestion that he could give me on a story that I wouldn't be eager to hear. Very early, I laid everything out on JUSTICE LEAGUE and was like, "Anywhere that you see that it could be stronger, anything you think could be better, I want to know."

BENDIS: I told him, "Less Superman, more Sugar and Spike." He doesn't listen.

SNYDER: Honestly, one of the things I think, and I'll be blunt or frank about it...at times, I think it's been frustrating that we haven't been maybe more collaborative at DC in terms of summits and that stuff, even though you have a bunch of people that love working together and get along with the editorial boots on the ground. I think in the last couple years, that's really begun to change. We've done more summits. I think Brian coming in, at this moment when we've been much more communal and connective as a company creatively and also structurally, is just a perfect thing.

DC NATION: You both seem to be very much on the same page. Where do you guys differ; have you clashed over anything yet?

BENDIS: It's not like that. It's a very unique thing to have a successful career in mainstream comics. There's not much to complain about. But there's a lot of...It's quite a maze. It's quite a journey you have to take, and very few people can really relate to it other than the people who have been in it. There's not much to argue about because we've both been through parallel journeys, and when you meet a fellow traveler, you immediately just dive into, "Oh, can you believe this craziness?" And [you] compare notes and make sure that your crazy notes are the same as their crazy notes.

SNYDER: Yeah.

BENDIS: It's more about finding out, "Oh good, my nutty world and your nutty world are the same nutty world," than it is about complaining about anything. If that makes sense. I'm sure we will [argue]. There's going to be story stuff we disagree with completely.

SNYDER: I look forward to that, though. Yeah.

BENDIS: At the moment, our goal is so similar and our love of characters is so similar that it's really more about that than anything else. But we'll get to fighting. Don't you worry.

DC NATION: Are there things you each see the other do, writing-wise, that you envy?

SNYDER: Oh yeah. There are so many things that [Bendis] does that I want to learn how to do better. I think the cumulative character-building, the time he takes to really delve into relationships. I still get nervous on the books, that I'm not delivering enough for the cover price, and I'll often, I think--

BENDIS: Yeah, that's always the biggest concern.

SNYDER: I often, I think, err on that side where, [when] those are things that I sometimes think to myself, I let go in a comic for the giant set pieces. One of the things that I admire is the way that he

JUSTICE LEAGUE ODYSSEY

As a new sector of long-thought-dead worlds emerges, Cyborg must assemble a team to chart and protect the newly returned planets

When the Source Wall fell in the pages of NO JUSTICE, space didn't just get a hell of a lot bigger–it got a lot more dangerous, too!

Launching next month, JUSTICE LEAGUE ODYSSEY follows Cyborg leading a team of heroes tasked with exploring the new Ghost Sector of space, a section of space populated by planets that were shrunk down and bottled away by the Coluans like Brainiac for cataloging and research.

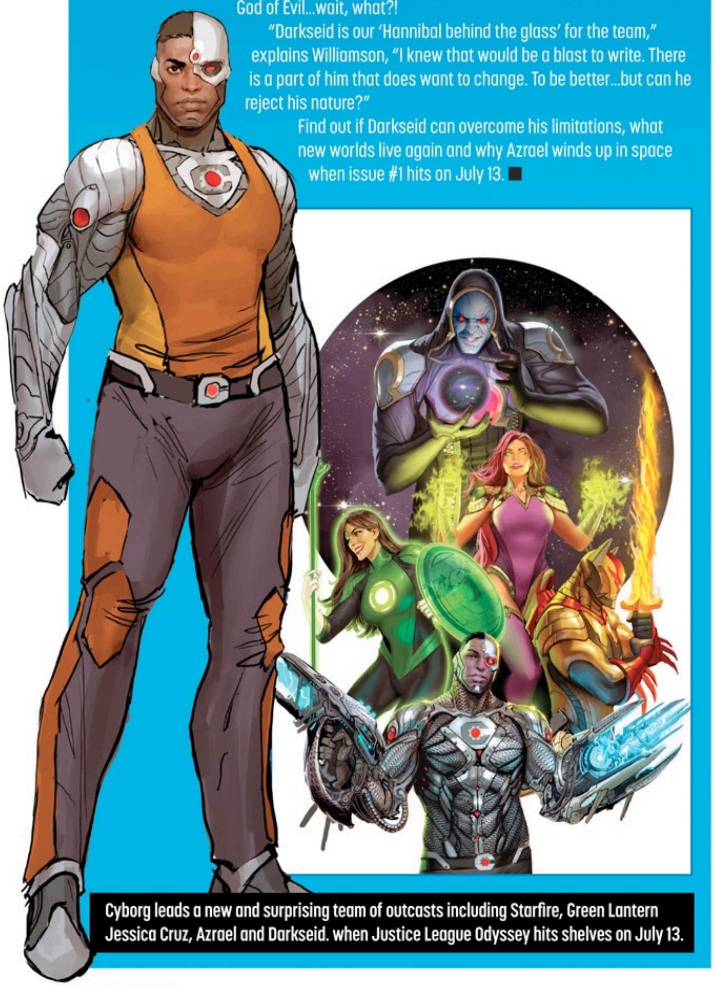
"I feel like I've been handed the keys to the cosmic kingdom of the DCU," says writer Joshua Williamson , who teams with the über-talented artist Stejpan Sejic for the series.. "And I'm going to take it for a wild, screaming ride. I'm a big Justice League fan and I think it's rad that we're able to build on what Scott [Snyder] is doing with his Justice League book and create a new team with a mission in space."

The team must help these planets acclimate to their new environment and the larger universe around them, meaning Cyborg will need some backup.

He recruits Starfire, the Tamaranean warrior princess; Jessica Cruz, powerhouse member of the Green Lantern Corps; Azrael, righteous knight of the Bat-Family team; Darkseid, God of Evil...wait, what?!

"Darkseid is our 'Hannibal behind the glass' for the team," explains Williamson, "I knew that would be a blast to write. There is a part of him that does want to change. To be better...but can he reject his nature?"

Find out if Darkseid can overcome his limitations, what new worlds live again and why Azrael winds up in space when issue #1 hits on July 13. ■



Cyborg leads a new and surprising team of outcasts including Starfire, Green Lantern Jessica Cruz, Azrael and Darkseid. when Justice League Odyssey hits shelves on July 13.

balances that so beautifully. You can do something that's an event, like *House of M*, and make it incredibly emotional throughout, and then have a nutty hook at the end. I studied all of that when I was doing METAL a lot. I read a ton of Brian's stuff, going back to when I was just gearing up to try and do something bigger than I had done on BATMAN.

BENDIS: Well, thank you, man.

SNYDER: No, it's totally true. For me, it's like literally having somebody here who I'm very eager to learn from. I still feel like I'm relatively green in a lot of ways. Even though I've been here a while, I was on BATMAN singularly. I've done stuff in the indie world or for Vertigo, but going onto a cosmic level with JUSTICE LEAGUE and the stuff we're doing next, all of that is new to me. And there's stuff that he's just done so well and [there's] definitive work on that I'm really eager to learn from him.

BENDIS: I haven't read any of his work, but...[laughs]. Honestly. I get so impressed in this world of mixed messages and noise. We live in a world with a lot of noise, and Scott's able to keep on message in a way that very few people in any medium are able to do. He doesn't get distracted by the side conversation and whatnot. It makes for an impressive experience storytelling-wise. When it was COURT OF OWLS, that's all you heard from him. He's done it again on METAL. I told everyone, "Well listen, that's how you do it. That's how you market. That's how you stay on message." It's insanely impressive.

SNYDER: Thank you.

BENDIS: The writing stuff aside, which obviously is, to me, a Herculean enough effort to do this. And it's funny that he thinks that he's still learning, because as I said publicly, the most impressive thing about METAL is that not only did he share it with so many writers, but he set aside really cool stuff for the other writers. A lot of people don't do that. They keep all the good stuff for themselves. But it's a very strong collaborator that goes, "No, no. I don't need all the good stuff. I can share, and the whole project will be stronger for it." Seeing him do that and do it well is very impressive. I said it publicly because there were some other writers, I wanted them to think about that.

SNYDER: I remember you saying that before you were over here. That really meant a lot to me.

BENDIS: Yeah, because if you study certain filmmakers, the ones that have a lot of confidence are the ones that have no problem telling you, "Oh, that idea that you loved? That was the writer's idea, or that was the actor's idea." [Steven] Spielberg is amazing about this. You point out anything in his filmography, even the most famous stuff that he's famous for, he'll go, "Oh, you know whose idea that was? That was Richard Dreyfuss' idea." Or, "That was Tom Hanks' idea." I'm always blown away by that because that is such confidence. It doesn't take away

MAN OF STEEL

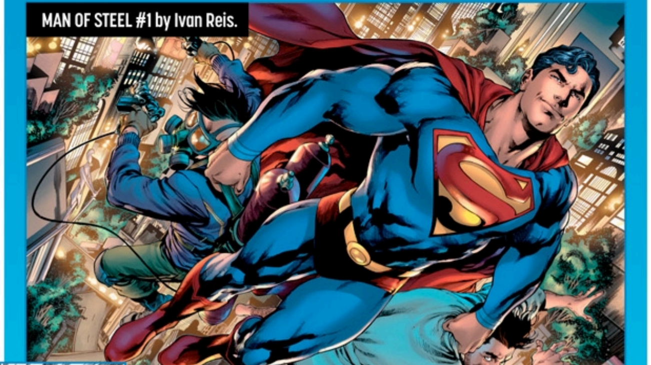
Everything you want to know...now and later!

Brian Michael Bendis wants to play it coy.

Sure, he'll go on and on about how excited he is to dive into the world of Superman and the wider DC Universe. But try to ask about the new cast of the *Daily Planet* or the origins for Rogol Zaar, the man claiming to have destroyed Krypton, and he clams up.

While MAN OF STEEL is just in its second week of a six-week weekly run, the series sets the tone and lays down the bread crumbs leading to the writer's first issues of SUPERMAN and ACTION COMICS in July alongside artists Ivan Reis and Patrick Gleason.

Here are the big questions you'll want answered, not only about what's coming in the new miniseries itself, but what you'll be asking after issue #6 hits stands.



MAN OF STEEL #1 by Ivan Reis.

What happened to Lois Lane and Jon Kent?

"You'll find out in issue #6 of MAN OF STEEL," teases Bendis. "You won't get all the answers, but you'll know why Lois isn't at the *Daily Planet*, and what happened to Jon." Expect the reveal to haunt Clark Kent in both SUPERMAN and ACTION COMICS come July.

What's Rogol Zaar's connection to Krypton?

All signs point to Krypton's destruction not being a natural disaster, but a planned planetary execution caused by the religious zealot. True or not, Rogol claims to have "cleansed" Krypton. Supergirl will be particularly interested in knowing the truth behind Rogol's claims when her series returns in August.

What's the deal with new *Daily Planet* city-beat reporter Robinson Good?

In *DC NATION #0*, readers saw Robinson isn't just a good reporter, she's connected to some shadowy Metropolis figures after hours. Look for her to be a thorn in Clark Kent's side in ACTION COMICS.

Who's trying to burn down Metropolis?

"A prime suspect will be revealed in the final issue of MAN OF STEEL," says Bendis. With Superman's powers offering little help against this low-tech crime, expect the hunt for the arsonist to vex the Man of Steel in ACTION COMICS.

When will readers see classic threats such as Lex Luthor, General Zod or Doomsday?

Expect all new and all different when it comes to Bendis' bad guys. "We're looking at new villains who challenge Superman in new ways every issue," says Bendis.

One new threat emerges from the past in next month's SUPERMAN #1, as a hero from the DCU's early history returns to tell Superman he's not doing enough to guide and save humanity. ■

Bendis and artist Ivan Reis' SUPERMAN #1 launches on July 11.

from me to tell you that my collaboration brought upon this cool stuff. A lot of times in comics, or really in any medium, people get so worried about their legacy that they don't realize that the legacy of sharing is a pretty great one. That's where Scott's kicking ass.

DC NATION: So, no rivalry? Not even a good-natured one?
BENDIS: Oh, yeah. I don't do rivalry.
SNYDER: No. No.
BENDIS: My rivalry comes from craft work, like if someone's on a level of craft that I can't help but pause and go, "Oh yeah, you really did that well." I get envious, but not jealous, if that makes sense. I go, "Oh, that's the thing to work harder on because that craft is all that matters." The craft is the only thing that you really control. But yeah, you can't have enough good books.
SNYDER: That's always just rivalry with yourself. It's reading something inspiring by somebody else, and then wanting to be better, and that feeling you get of total terror that you're like, "I'm never gonna be that good," and then the next day you're [thinking], "I need to try and be that good." You know?

DC NATION: It's early on, but do you guys have an idea of what the DC Universe looks like a year from now? What's the biggest difference between June 2018 and June 2019?
BENDIS: Well, we're not the only authors in the pack.
SNYDER: Yeah.
BENDIS: There's like 50 other writers that also... Continuity is an organism, with all these different parts to it. But all I know is I'm writing about hope. I'm writing a character that embodies it, and I'm writing a book that needs it, and I'm writing it into a world that I think needs a lot more of it. I can't imagine being the writer of SUPERMAN at a better time. Almost every minute of every day, I'm reminded, "Oh my God, does the world need Superman." Writing that, you can't help but hope that 12 months from now, that the whole DC Universe feels a lot more hopeful. With that, the world as well. But that's what I'm writing about alone in my basement, is the hope and humor of the world.
SNYDER: I think I can speak to the energy internally [at DC] right now. People are so excited about Brian being here. But also just about, I think, the fact that Rebirth really showed us the importance of honoring the past. Then things that have happened since then, METAL and other things, we've gotten a chance to really blast off into new territory. People have responded well to it, so we're kind of poised right now to do some extremely daring and inventive stuff across the board. And suggestions from creators on all sides have had a similar spirit about wanting to push beyond the boundaries of what's been done with the characters, and yet honor [what's] classic. I love the thinking behind it that, this year, the DC Universe becomes bigger, crazier, more wondrous, more terrifying than you knew it to be. And these heroes are going to carry you there in huge, transportive ways. ■

Former DC intern and DC NATION editor Mike Cotton was considered for membership in the Legion of Doom, but the height requirement vetoed his inclusion.

LEGION OF DOOM

Lex Luthor's quest to advance humankind runs right through the heroes of the Justice League

Is the Legion of Doom humanity's last hope?

After the events of NO JUSTICE, Lex Luthor recognizes the newly revealed changes to the cosmos mean it's time for humans to take an active hand in their own development.

All humankind needs is a strong leader. And Lex is ready to lead humanity into a new age.

To begin, the Metropolis billionaire assembles a veritable who's who of DC's biggest threats by offering them what they've always desired: their enemies' heads on a platter.

The Legion of Doom begins to form in JUSTICE LEAGUE #1 on sale June 6. Here's a quick rundown of who Luthor enlists to usurp the League.

BLACK MANTA David Hyde pledged an oath to kill Aquaman after the hero mistakenly killed his father. Driven by revenge, Black Manta scours the world's oceans looking for the key to defeat the Atlantean hero. The deep-sea mercenary joins Luthor's cause with the promise of eradicating Aquaman, but he's been kept in the dark on how. He's been told the secrets lie deep within Atlantis and his history, and Luthor knows just where to find them!

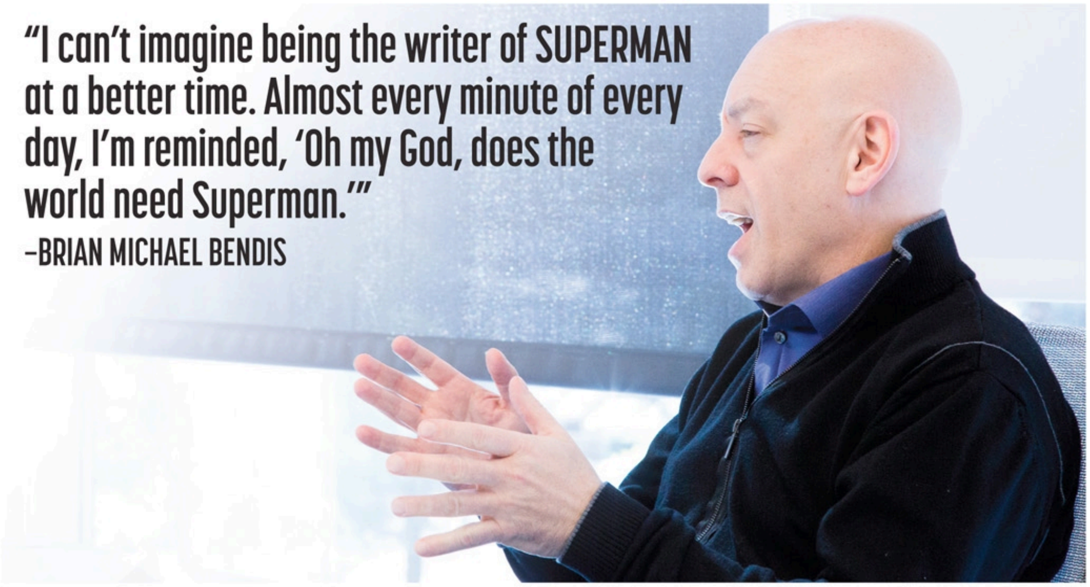
CHEETAH Once a close friend and confidant of Wonder Woman's, Barbara Minerva found herself transformed by the god Urzkartaga into the feral hunter Cheetah. Her life ruined, she blamed Diana because she was unable to protect her from this tragedy. Wishing to murder the gods who cursed her, Cheetah answers Luthor's call as he promises her the power to summon a force no god can withstand.

GORILLA GRODD The super-intelligent gorilla may have just faced down the Scarlet Speedster, but Grodd is not one to skulk away and lick his wounds. He will find a way to take down the Flash once and for all, but his telepathic mastery may not be enough. With Lex's help, the super-simian may finally gain mastery over a different power...one that could stop the Flash dead in his tracks.

SINESTRO Once the greatest Green Lantern of all, Sinestro felt that the only way to properly protect the universe was to control it, and that he was the one to do it. Banished from the Corps, his fall from grace is a story still told to young Lanterns beginning their training. Now the master of the yellow light of fear, Sinestro still searches for a power lost to the ages. With the Legion of Doom's help, Sinestro may claim this new power spectrum for himself.

JOKER The Joker is a man with only one desire: to instill madness and create unrest in the citizens of Gotham. Life's much better with a little more insanity in it. So how could even Luthor wrangle the Clown Prince of Crime, the most chaotic man in the DC Universe?! No one knows what Lex offers The Joker, but we're betting it ain't good.

LEX LUTHOR Lex Luthor has always had one goal in life: to make the world into the best it can be. His way is the only way, and no one will ever stand in his way. Not even Superman. This drive within the Metropolis billionaire has been instilled in him through generations of Luthor's family. Lex's ancestors sought to unlock the secrets of the universe for decades. With the help of the Legion of Doom, he'll be able to fulfill his family's dream. ■



"I can't imagine being the writer of SUPERMAN at a better time. Almost every minute of every day, I'm reminded, 'Oh my God, does the world need Superman.'"
–BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS

JUSTICE LEAGUE DARK

A new Wonder Woman-led team tackles the dark side of the DC Universe

When something goes bump in the night, Wonder Woman plans to bump back.

After the death of the God of Wonder from the other side of the Source Wall in the pages of NO JUSTICE, the Tree of Wonder sprouted from the body of this galactic threat and became a lightning rod for a magical realm trying to bust through to the DC Universe.

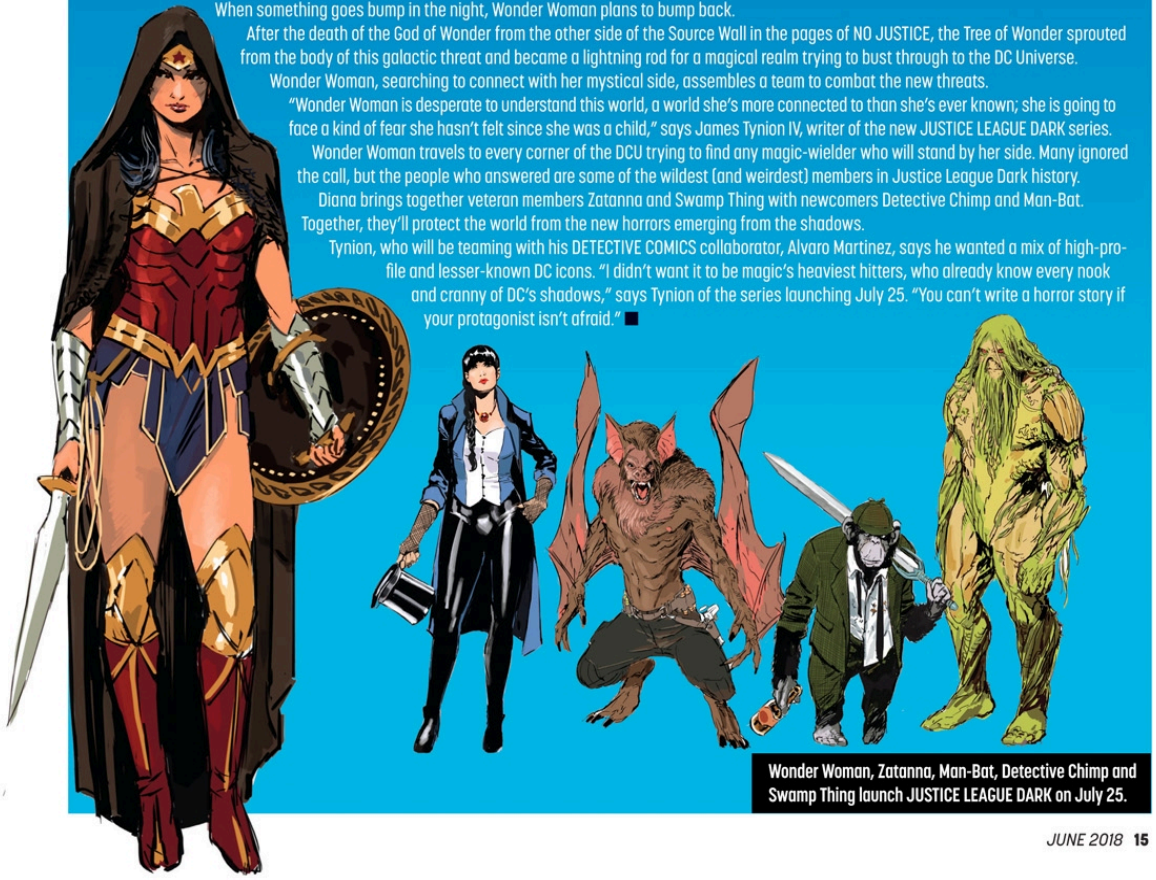
Wonder Woman, searching to connect with her mystical side, assembles a team to combat the new threats.

"Wonder Woman is desperate to understand this world, a world she's more connected to than she's ever known; she is going to face a kind of fear she hasn't felt since she was a child," says James Tynion IV, writer of the new JUSTICE LEAGUE DARK series.

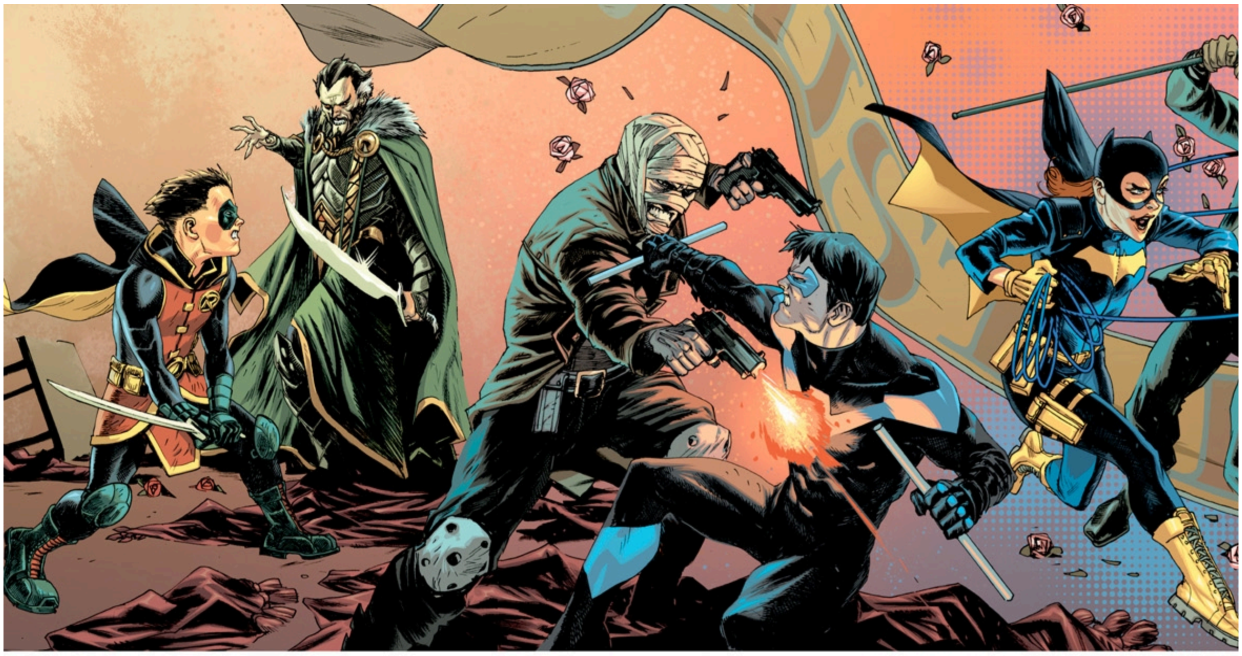
Wonder Woman travels to every corner of the DCU trying to find any magic-wielder who will stand by her side. Many ignored the call, but the people who answered are some of the wildest (and weirdest) members in Justice League Dark history.

Diana brings together veteran members Zatanna and Swamp Thing with newcomers Detective Chimp and Man-Bat. Together, they'll protect the world from the new horrors emerging from the shadows.

Tynion, who will be teaming with his DETECTIVE COMICS collaborator, Alvaro Martinez, says he wanted a mix of high-profile and lesser-known DC icons. "I didn't want it to be magic's heaviest hitters, who already know every nook and cranny of DC's shadows," says Tynion of the series launching July 25. "You can't write a horror story if your protagonist isn't afraid." ■



Wonder Woman, Zatanna, Man-Bat, Detective Chimp and Swamp Thing launch JUSTICE LEAGUE DARK on July 25.



Wedding

The villains of Gotham unite to stop Batman's wedding

From all appearances, it's tough to tell who's more nervous about the wedding of Batman and Catwoman—confirmed bachelor and billionaire playboy Bruce Wayne or Tom King, the writer penning the special day for the Dark Knight.

"This is issue #50—it's the biggest issue I've ever done," admits the 39-year old. "The biggest issue of BATMAN maybe in the entire run."

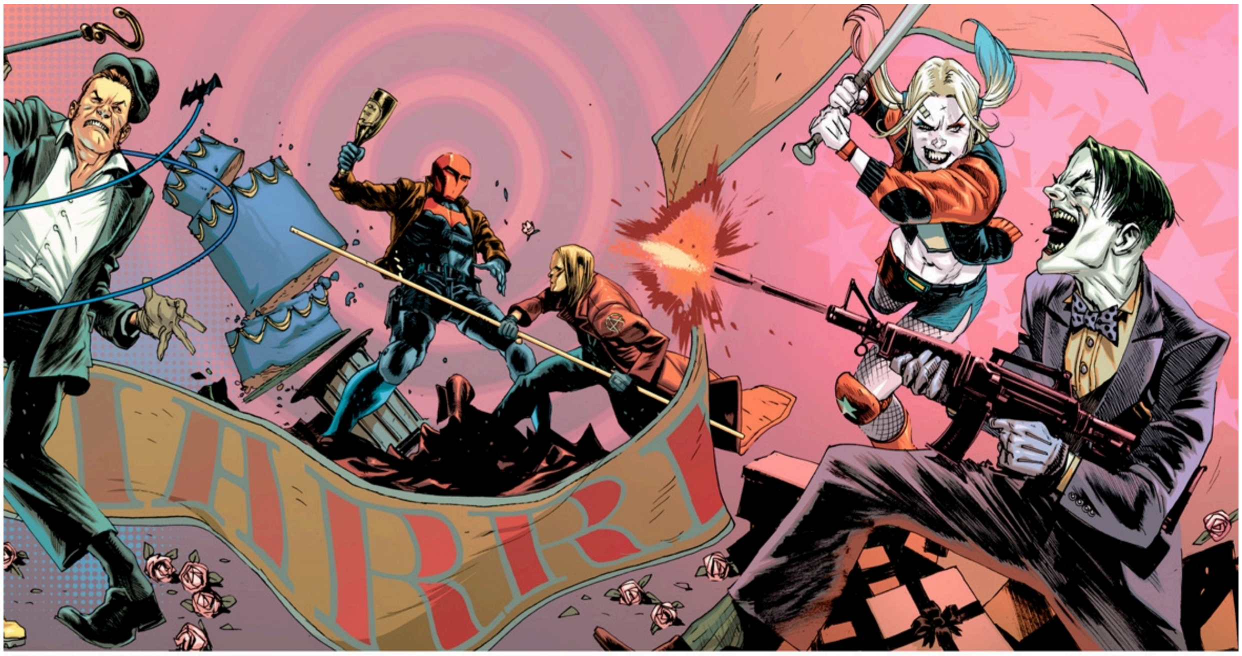
This kind of blockbuster, once-a-century wedding requires a blowout buildup, and King's former GRAYSON writing partner Tim Seeley welcomed the opportunity to join wedding-party members Robin, Nightwing, Batgirl, Red Hood and Harley Quinn as they face off against five hellish wedding crashers from Batman's rogues gallery.

The five-part series takes place roughly a day or two before the wedding, notes Seeley, who was excited to explore "how each reacts to a wedding. How they fit together, how they relate to Catwoman and how they fight villains."

The writer partners with a bevy of brilliant artists (including Rafael Albuquerque on covers)—each perfectly suited to bring BATMAN: PRELUDE TO THE WEDDING to life. "I'm working with artists I know or have worked with before," says Seeley, who tailored each of the five scripts to each artist's style.

Before they put on their finest threads for the ceremony, here's a rundown of who's protecting the minibar from the party crashers!

By Michael Nixon



Crashers

BATMAN: PRELUDE TO THE WEDDING: ROBIN VS. RA'S AL GHUL

Tim Seeley (w) Brad Walker (a)

ON SALE: **May 30**

POTENTIAL CRASHER: Ra's al Ghul

WHY CRASH? Ra's retains a wide array of reasons to stop the Bat's pending wedding ceremony. The Demon's Head always aimed to match his daughter Talia al Ghul with the Dark Knight—a pairing that produced the only opponent who can stand in his way: grandson Damian Wayne.

DEFENDING THE BAT: Damian Wayne, the current Robin, goes toe-to-toe with his grandfather in defense of his father's wedding—though it remains to be seen how he feels about his soon-to-be stepmom.

DRAWN BY: Brad Walker's bigger-than-life style brought SINESTRO and the recent Demon miniseries to life and pushed Seeley to write a script that was "action-packed. Big and epic!"

SEELEY'S FINAL WORD: "Damian meets the son of Batman and Catwoman, which doesn't make sense to him, and has to face off with a grandfather who's very disappointed in him."

BATMAN: PRELUDE TO THE WEDDING: ROBIN VS. RA'S AL GHUL

BATMAN: PRELUDE TO THE WEDDING: NIGHTWING VS. HUSH

BATMAN: PRELUDE TO THE WEDDING: NIGHTWING VS. HUSH

Tim Seeley (w) Travis Moore (a)

ON SALE: **June 6**

POTENTIAL CRASHER: Hush

WHY CRASH? Tommy Elliot's beef with Bruce goes all the way back to when they were kids; Hush even killed off his own parents so he could steal Bruce's orphan thunder. Now the bandage-masked madman plans to crash the bachelor party of the Bat.

DEFENDING THE BAT: Nightwing, Bruce's former ward Dick Grayson, who tangles with Hush in order to defend his adoptive father's stag night against attack.

DRAWN BY: Kinetically gifted artist Travis Moore, whose work delivers a dynamic, slick, clean Nightwing story that shows off the "dark version of Gotham that our heroes fall into to contrast their relationships with Bruce," explains Seeley.

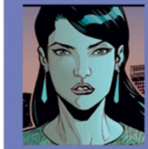
SEELEY'S FINAL WORD: "Nightwing is at the bachelor party from Hell: sent to another dimension, fighting it out with Bruce's other party."

BATTLE OF THE EXES

Batman and Catwoman only have eyes for each other now, but they've had their fair share of suitors–most of them violent and unstable. Here's a rundown of three of the Bat and Cat's worst exes and why they were bad, mad or otherwise unfit for the soon-to-be-wed lovers of black leather.

EXES OF THE CAT

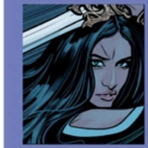
DETECTIVE TOM LONE Benjamin Bratt (*Law & Order*) played Catwoman's love interest in the poorly received 2004 *Catwoman* solo film starring Halle Berry.



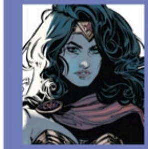
THE OTHER CAT If a single smooch makes a romance, than Eiko Hasigawa–who held the Catwoman title while Selina briefly bossed a mob family–fits the bill.

CRIME While the Cat loves the Bat, her first love will always be a nice, healthy theft. How long till she runs afoul of Gotham's law enforcement?

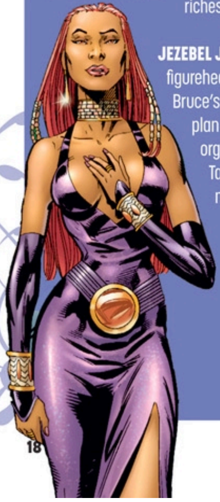
EXES OF THE BAT



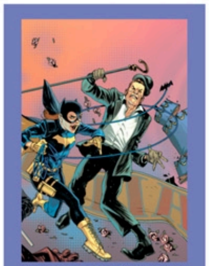
TALIA AL GHUL While she and Batman may have had a child together, the daughter of the Demon's Head did have to steal the DNA to make little Damian–and she did send the kid to kill Bruce–so she's not really wife material.



WONDER WOMAN Always more of a will-they-or-won't-they, the possibility of romance between the big Leaguers might be more of a nice idea than something worth digging into with an Amazonian princess and Gotham's richest ninja.



JEZEBEL JET This supermodel, national figurehead and art aficionado caught Bruce's eye, which was all part of a plan to kill him cooked up by criminal organization the Black Glove. Plus, Talia killed her, so it's definitely never going to work out. ■

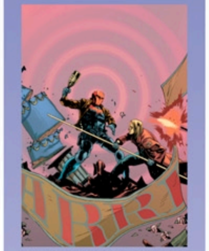


BATMAN: PRELUDE TO THE WEDDING: BATGIRL VS. RIDDLER

BATMAN: PRELUDE TO THE WEDDING: BATGIRL VS. RIDDLER

Tim Seeley (w) Minkyu Jung (a)

ON SALE: **June 13**
POTENTIAL CRASHER: The Riddler
WHY CRASH? Edward Nygma always keeps a chip on his shoulder when it comes to besting the Batman, but the Riddler discovers a different target for his pre-wedding plans: Batgirl.
DEFENDING THE BAT: Batgirl's stomping grounds of Burnside may be hip, cool and trendy, but they're still part of Gotham–villains and all.
DRAWN BY: Seeley and Minkyu Jung's experience on NIGHTWING allowed the team to fill the Batgirl vs. Riddler face-off with emotion and some small moments longtime fans will savor.
SEELEY'S FINAL WORD: "Batgirl runs a gauntlet in Burnside that the Riddler's set up just for her–and she realizes he's trying to woo her. It's his sick version of a date."

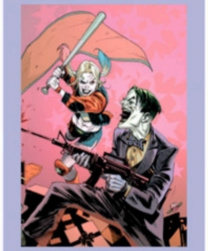


BATMAN: PRELUDE TO THE WEDDING: RED HOOD VS. ANARKY

BATMAN: PRELUDE TO THE WEDDING: RED HOOD VS. ANARKY

Tim Seeley (w) Javier Fernandez (a)

ON SALE: **June 20**
POTENTIAL CRASHER: Anarky
WHY CRASH? Anarky loves to make a ruckus, and how better to make a mess for the Bat-Family than by offing the bride before her big day? Luckily, Catwoman's bridal party hired the right help to keep her safe during the festivities.
DEFENDING THE CAT: Jason Todd–former sidekick of Batman turned hired gun Red Hood–takes the case (and the check) to keep his former father figure's fiancée secure.
DRAWN BY: Expect big, crazy, dark stuff when artist Javier Fernandez brings the battle between Red Hood and Anarky to life on the page.
SEELEY'S FINAL WORD: "Red Hood has been hired to protect Catwoman's bachelorette party from the chaos caused by Anarky."



BATMAN: PRELUDE TO THE WEDDING: HARLEY VS. JOKER

BATMAN: PRELUDE TO THE WEDDING: HARLEY VS. JOKER

Tim Seeley (w) Sami Basri (a)

ON SALE: **June 27**
POTENTIAL CRASHER: The Joker
WHY CRASH? It's the Clown Prince of Crime. What? You thought he'd wait on an invite?
DEFENDING THE WEDDING: Harley Quinn, semi-reformed former love and protégé of The Joker; she's less interested in reform and way more into revenge on her former main squeeze.
DRAWN BY: Sami Basri uses his beautiful art to contrast the sweet and saccharine sides of Harley, pushing the horror side for the ultimate contrast.
SEELEY'S FINAL WORD: "The only one who can stop The Joker from attacking the wedding is his jilted ex-lover, Harley." ■

Freelance writer Michael Nixon's invitation to the wedding must have been lost in the mail, right, Bruce?

GIVE US A MINUTE...

Dan DiDio gives his pitch on why the bombastic characters, crazy concepts and out-of-this-world creations of the NEW AGE OF HEROES line deserves your attention

Picture this: you're at the big comics show and get on the elevator, when behold–it's DC publisher Dan DiDio, and he's feeling chatty!

DC's New Age of Heroes initiative launched eight titles featuring all-new characters and fresh takes on existing favorites. We challenged DiDio to sell readers on them without the usual hype-speak.

With 60 seconds on the clock, what's the elevator pitch that would make a discerning comics fan give the New Age of Heroes a shot?

THE IMMORTAL MEN
"Generational heroes are a core aspect to DC...Flash to Kid Flash, etc. With IMMORTAL MEN, we see something different: a consistent cast moving through the entire history of the DC Universe–and shaping it."

DAMAGE
"The battle of what you want to be versus who you are. Damage is a weaponized superhero, which goes against the grain of what a hero should be."

THE CURSE OF BRIMSTONE
"'Curse' is the key word. There should always be a price to power. Everything Brimstone does to improve the lives of his loved ones makes his life worse. How does that change you?"

THE SILENCER
"A woman who can't outrun her past. All of us have wished for a fresh start. Former assassin the Silencer found it–now we'll see how far she'll go to protect it."

THE TERRIFICS
"Love this book! Four characters who have no business teaming up, but desperately need one another to survive. Exploring the unknown with strangers who become your family."

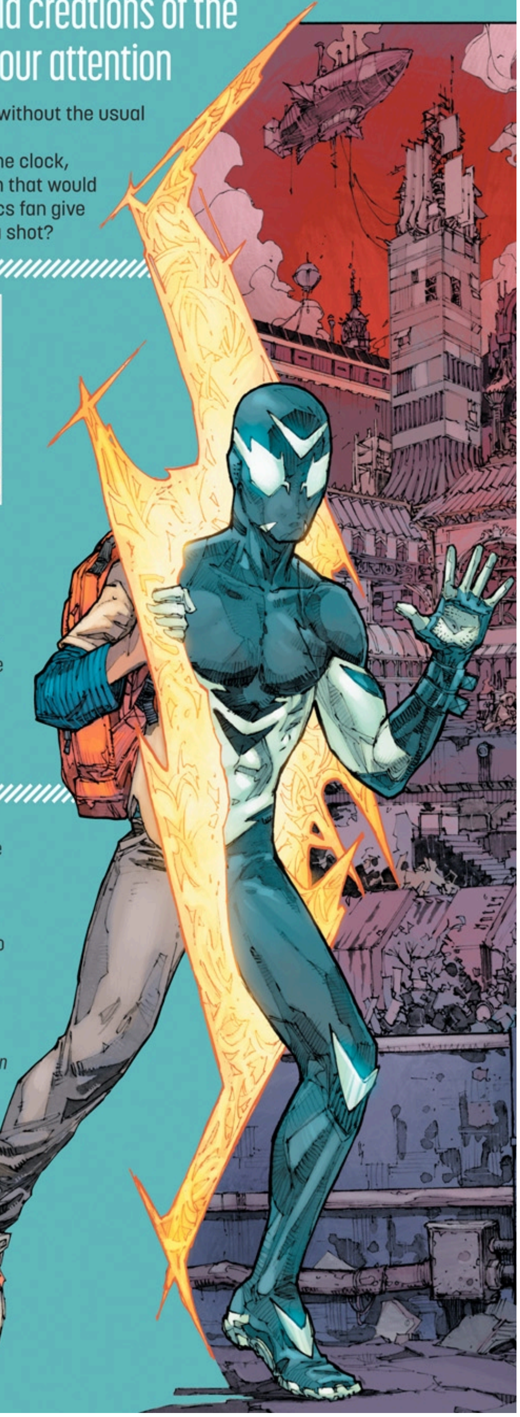
NEW CHALLENGERS
"Normal people rising up to face the extraordinary. What's it like to live in a superhero universe, to face those unique challenges, when you have no superpowers?"

THE UNEXPECTED
"I have a soft spot for quirky, offbeat characters. We worked hard to make this book embrace the bizarre. I guarantee this book will surprise–especially the end of that first issue."

SIDEWAYS
"Ah, I always struggle to hype my own stuff. Sideways is a kid who wants to be noticed, who needs to be heard, to matter... along with the price he must pay for that attention." ■

[*Editor's note: Once Dan got going, he went on for 20 minutes. We're out of room. Buy SIDEWAYS and Dan will come to your house for a dramatic reading.**]

**Legal note: Not an actual contest, no one is eligible. Please do not enter.*



LEGACY OF METAL

DARK NIGHTS: METAL kicked butt. The blockbuster six-issue series by superstar creative team SCOTT SNYDER and GREG CAPULLO topped the charts, starred virtually the entire DC Universe and set in motion storylines that live on across a dozen comics titles.

METAL

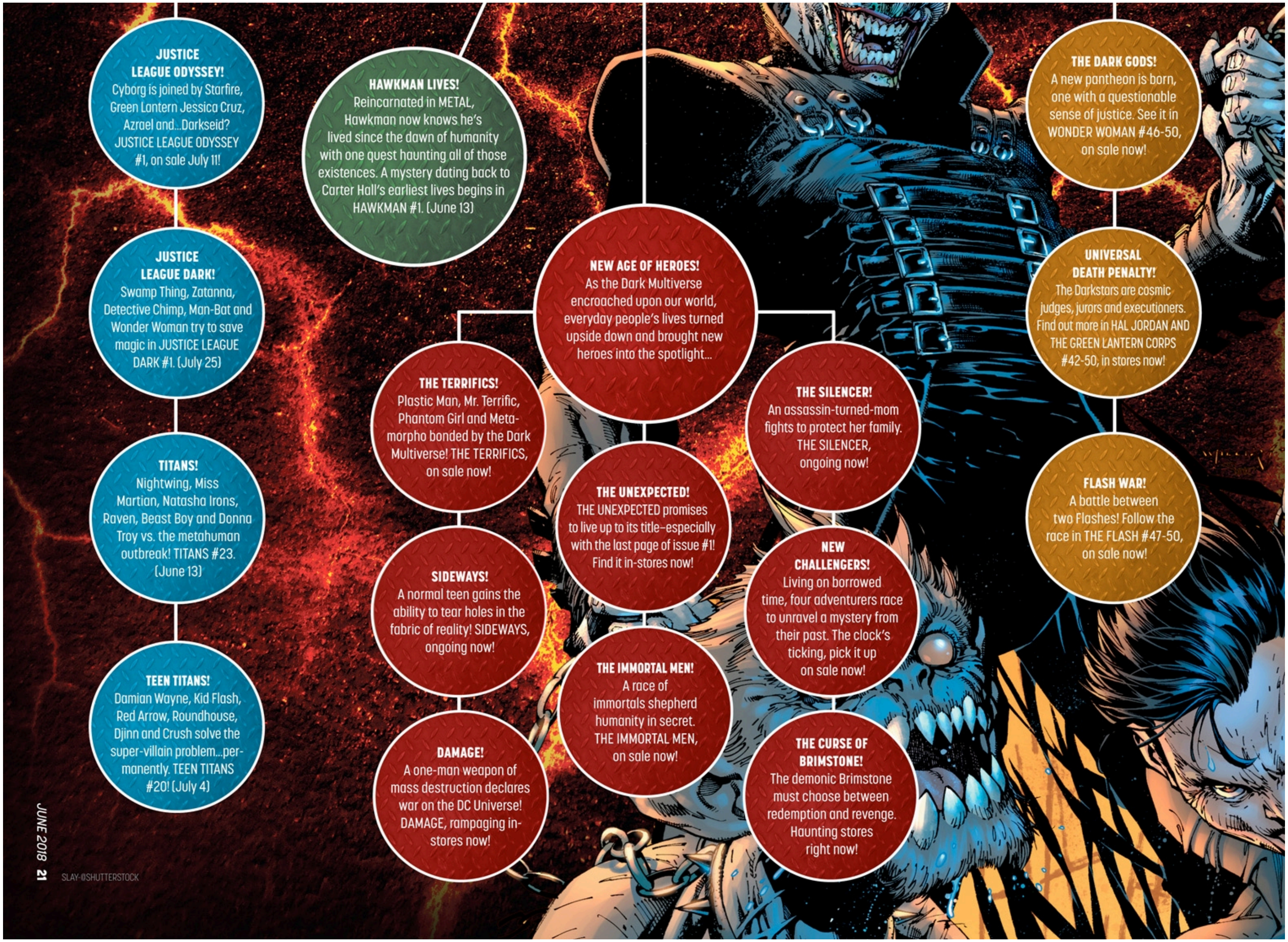
A sewer of broken dimensions, the Dark Multiverse's worlds are too twisted and corrupt to hold their shapes and become part of the Multiverse. The demon Barbatos escaped that monstrous realm, tearing a hole into our world and laying siege to Earth with an army of nightmarish alt-reality Batmen.

NO JUSTICE!
Picking up from the pages of METAL, the four-issue NO JUSTICE series saw the attack of the Omega Titans as shards from the fractured Source Wall fell to Earth and a seismic shift came to the super-teams of the DC Universe...

JUSTICE LEAGUE!
The Justice League begin a race across time and space against Lex Luthor and the Legion of Doom. JUSTICE LEAGUE, twice monthly begins June 6!

CURSE OF THE NTH METAL
In the final battle against Barbatos, the Justice League donned armor made from the mysterious alien "Nth metal," making their subconscious desires a reality. What happened next...?

ATLANTIS RISING!
Aquaman's undersea kingdom begins ascending to the surface! Check it out in AQUAMAN #38. (Jul. 18)



JUSTICE LEAGUE ODYSSEY!
Cyborg is joined by Starfire, Green Lantern Jessica Cruz, Azrael and...Darkseid? JUSTICE LEAGUE ODYSSEY #1, on sale July 11!

JUSTICE LEAGUE DARK!
Swamp Thing, Zatanna, Detective Chimp, Man-Bat and Wonder Woman try to save magic in JUSTICE LEAGUE DARK #1. (July 25)

TITANS!
Nightwing, Miss Martian, Natasha Irons, Raven, Beast Boy and Donna Troy vs. the metahuman outbreak! TITANS #23. (June 13)

TEEN TITANS!
Damian Wayne, Kid Flash, Red Arrow, Roundhouse, Djinn and Crush solve the super-villain problem...permanently. TEEN TITANS #20! (July 4)

HAWKMAN LIVES!
Reincarnated in METAL, Hawkman now knows he's lived since the dawn of humanity with one quest haunting all of those existences. A mystery dating back to Carter Hall's earliest lives begins in HAWKMAN #1. (June 13)

NEW AGE OF HEROES!
As the Dark Multiverse encroached upon our world, everyday people's lives turned upside down and brought new heroes into the spotlight...

THE TERRIFICS!
Plastic Man, Mr. Terrific, Phantom Girl and Metamorpho bonded by the Dark Multiverse! THE TERRIFICS, on sale now!

SIDEWAYS!
A normal teen gains the ability to tear holes in the fabric of reality! SIDEWAYS, ongoing now!

DAMAGE!
A one-man weapon of mass destruction declares war on the DC Universe! DAMAGE, rampaging in-stores now!

THE UNEXPECTED!
THE UNEXPECTED promises to live up to its title–especially with the last page of issue #1! Find it in-stores now!

THE IMMORTAL MEN!
A race of immortals shepherd humanity in secret. THE IMMORTAL MEN, on sale now!

THE SILENCER!
An assassin-turned-mom fights to protect her family. THE SILENCER, ongoing now!

NEW CHALLENGERS!
Living on borrowed time, four adventurers race to unravel a mystery from their past. The clock's ticking, pick it up on sale now!

THE CURSE OF BRIMSTONE!
The demonic Brimstone must choose between redemption and revenge. Haunting stores right now!

THE DARK GODS!
A new pantheon is born, one with a questionable sense of justice. See it in WONDER WOMAN #46-50, on sale now!

UNIVERSAL DEATH PENALTY!
The Darkstars are cosmic judges, jurors and executioners. Find out more in HAL JORDAN AND THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS #42-50, in stores now!

FLASH WAR!
A battle between two Flashes! Follow the race in THE FLASH #47-50, on sale now!

SLAY-@SHUTTERSTOCK

WHO IS THE FASTEST MAN ALIVE?

By Andrew Marino

It's a life-and-death race when two Flashes collide in "Flash War"!

Like two thoroughbred racehorses lined up at the starting gate, Barry Allen and Wally West—the Flashes of the DC Universe—prepare to tear up the track.

The cause of this Speed Force static? Wally is convinced the only way to save the lives of the two people he loves most is to break the Speed Force—no matter the cost.

But Barry isn't convinced; he's seen what happens to space-time when you muck around with the Speed Force (see: lots of Flash stories).

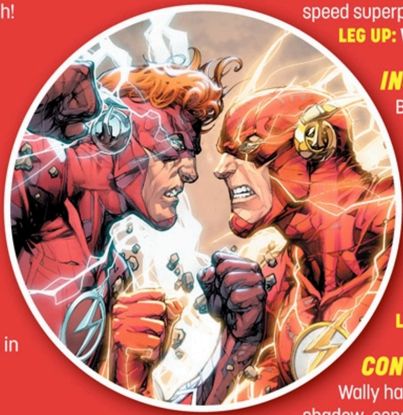
So what happens when the irresistible force of Wally's passion meets the immovable object of Barry's stubbornness? And how much worse will it get when Professor Zoom picks sides?

The creative team of Josh Williamson and Howard Porter answer all these questions in the pages of the upcoming Flash event, but it did get us thinking...which Flash would have the upper hand in a no-holds-barred battle to the finish? Let's go to the tale of the tape!

TOP SPEED

Who's the fastest Flash? Google gives back 1.1 million results in a half-second—now THAT'S fast! The answer after all that debate, however, is Wally; he broke the time barrier, which his uncle never managed. Barry has even admitted his nephew is flat-out the faster Flash. Straight from the horse's mouth!

LEG UP: WALLY WEST



BRAINPOWER

Barry boasts a wide array of scientific know-how and psychological profiling in his battle against crime, while Wally's a bit more impulsive and hotheaded, not known for thinking things through. "Flash War" won't be won by someone just fleet of feet—they'll have to think fast as well, and Barry's got the edge in brains. **LEG UP: BARRY ALLEN**

EXPERIENCE

Barry Allen has been wearing the red and gold longer than Wally West. So no matter what Wally's run into during his Flash career, the truth is that Barry did it first. Barry's the source of the Speed Force—he creates it with every step he takes. Think he can't figure out a way to cut off a potential rival?

LEG UP: BARRY ALLEN

SKILLS

Barry may have come first as the Flash, but Wally upgraded everything about the role. Wally broke the time barrier, can create Speed Force constructs and generates blue lightning, the most powerful Speed Force energy. Barry has finer control of his molecules, but he's overmatched in terms of sheer speed superpowers. He can't generate a costume!

LEG UP: WALLY WEST

INSTINCTS

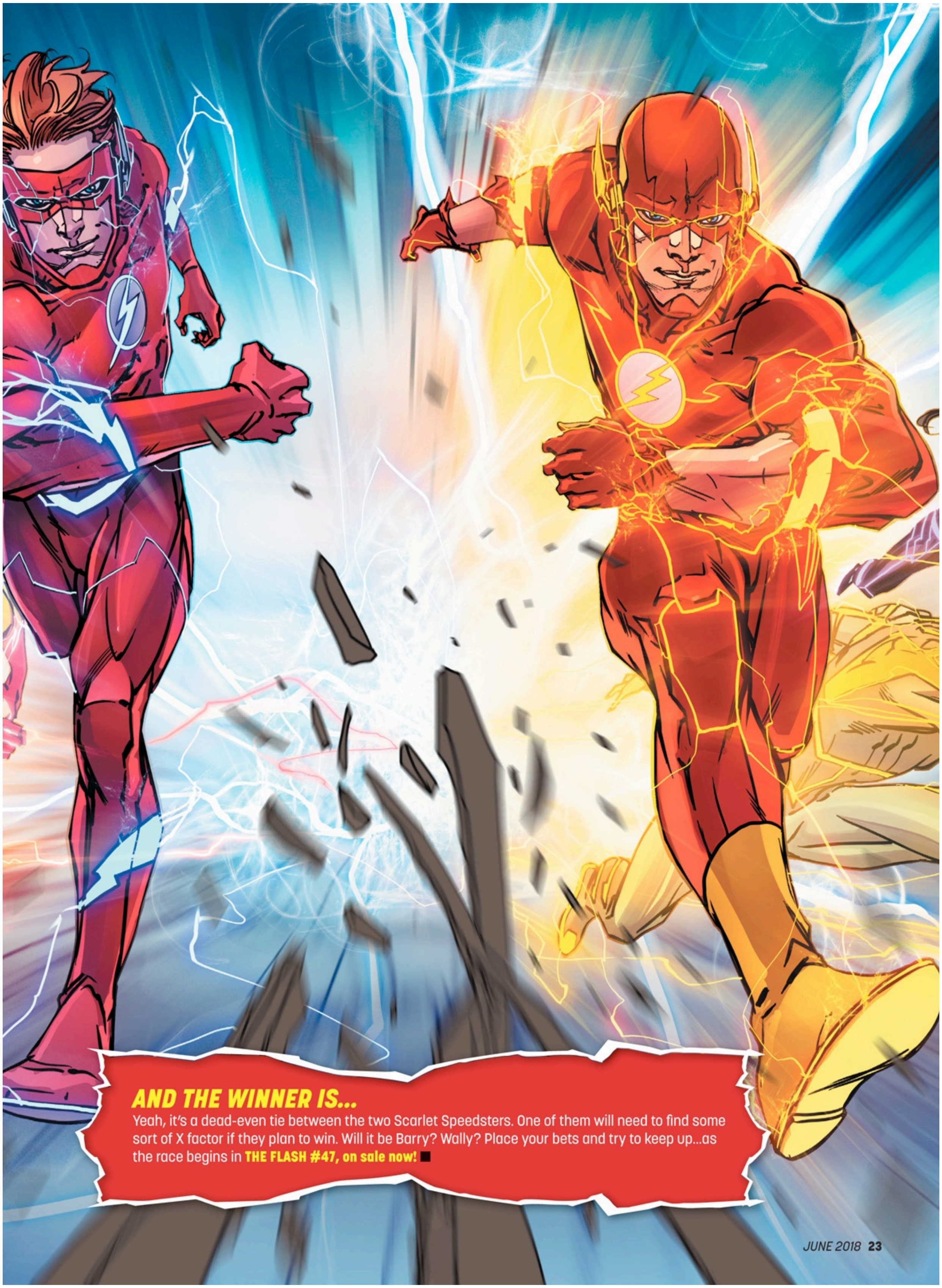
Barry's dogged determination to right wrongs sometimes clouds his better judgment, such as his current maniacal obsession with the Negative Speed Force and trying to control the Negative Flash. Wally, on the other hand, tries to see the good in people first—he's even managed to reform some Rogues!

LEG UP: WALLY WEST

CONFIDENCE

Wally has always felt like he's stuck in Barry's shadow, especially after a decade trapped in Speed Force limbo while Barry was the ONLY Flash. The shoe's on the other foot for Barry, who's saved the world a number of times since he became the primary DC speedster (FLASHPOINT, BLACKEST NIGHT, THE FLASH: REBIRTH). With that kind of self-doubt weighing on him, Wally might not be able to stay ahead of Barry if it gets inside his head.

LEG UP: BARRY ALLEN



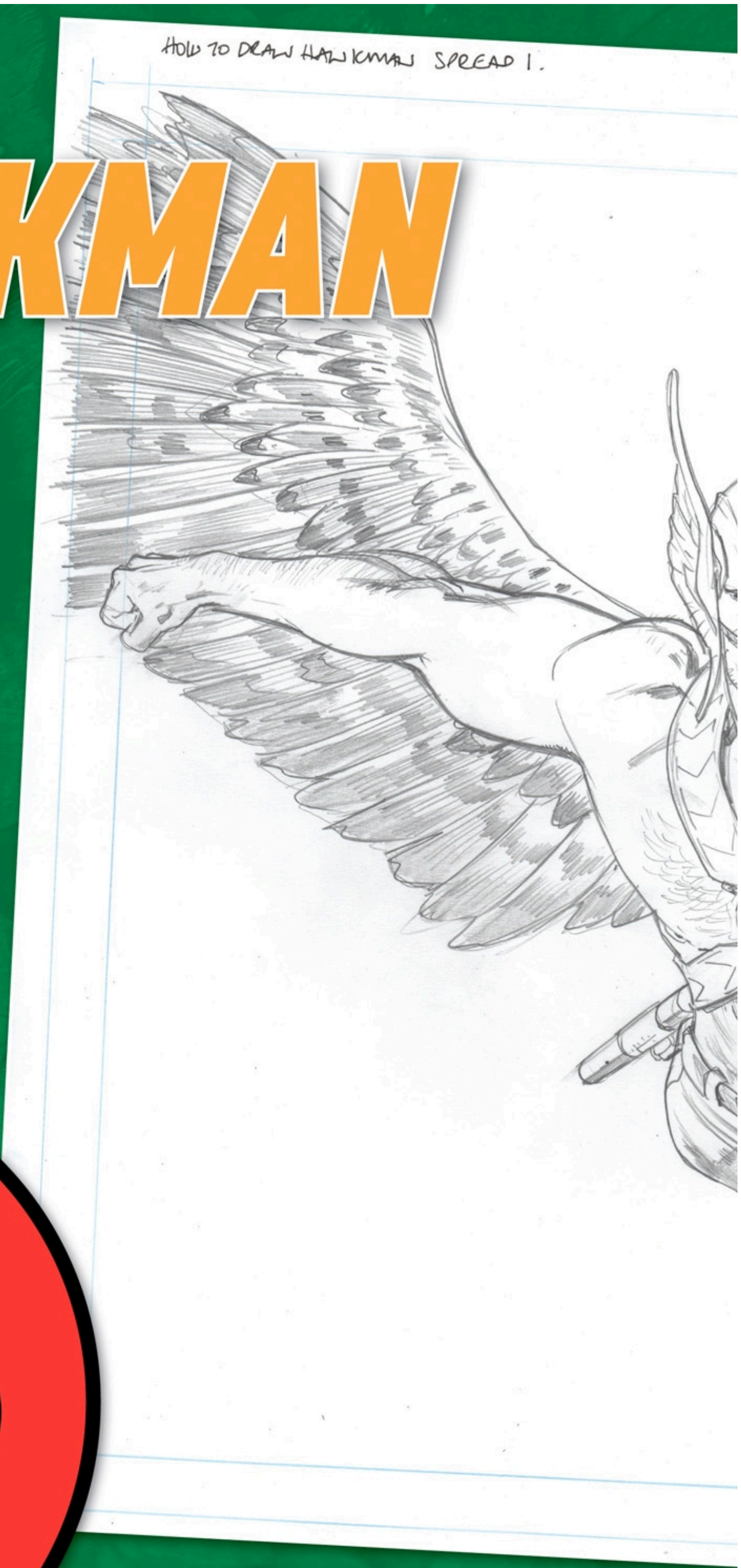
AND THE WINNER IS...

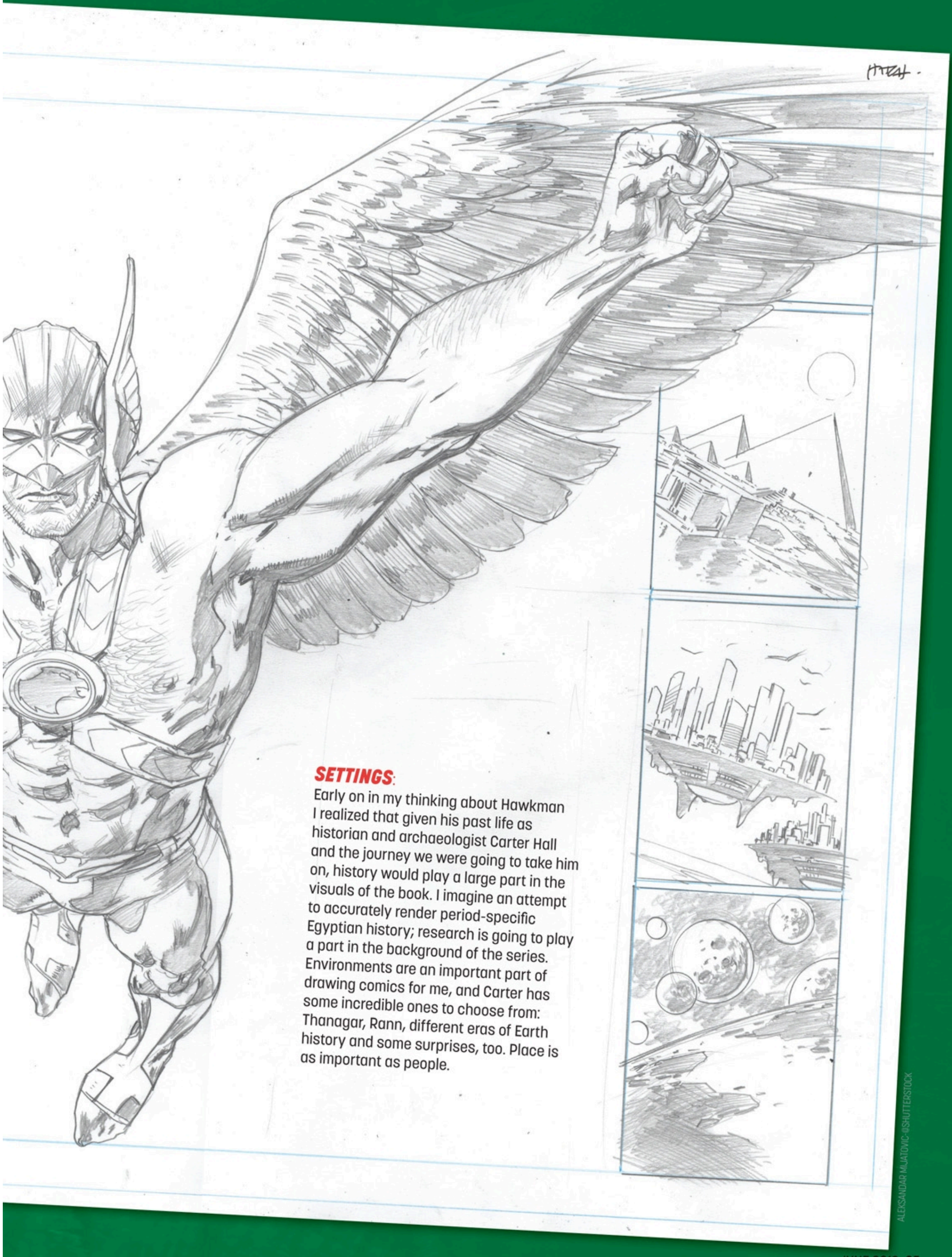
Yeah, it's a dead-even tie between the two Scarlet Speedsters. One of them will need to find some sort of X factor if they plan to win. Will it be Barry? Wally? Place your bets and try to keep up...as the race begins in **THE FLASH #47, on sale now!** ■

HOW TO DRAW...
HAWKMAN

Superstar artist Bryan Hitch takes you through his process of developing the look and style of Hawkman for the hero's new series

I'm Bryan Hitch, and over the last 30-plus years I've drawn nearly all the major heroes in comics in one way or another. Not Hawkman, though. This is new territory for me. I love the idea of the winged figure; it's such an old mythological form with references in everything from legends to religion. Hawkman is one of the oldest characters in the DCU, and I wanted to share some of the thoughts and insights I had about Carter Hall and how those have affected the way I approach drawing him.


HOW TO DRAW HAWKMAN SPREAD 1.



SETTINGS:
Early on in my thinking about Hawkman I realized that given his past life as historian and archaeologist Carter Hall and the journey we were going to take him on, history would play a large part in the visuals of the book. I imagine an attempt to accurately render period-specific Egyptian history; research is going to play a part in the background of the series. Environments are an important part of drawing comics for me, and Carter has some incredible ones to choose from: Thanagar, Rann, different eras of Earth history and some surprises, too. Place is as important as people.

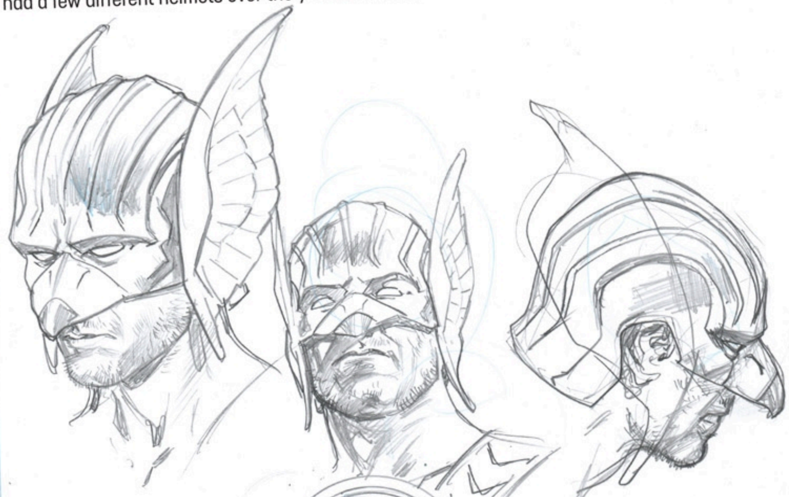
ALEKSANDAR MIJATOVIC-@SHUTTERSTOCK

How to draw Hawkman 3

HITCH.

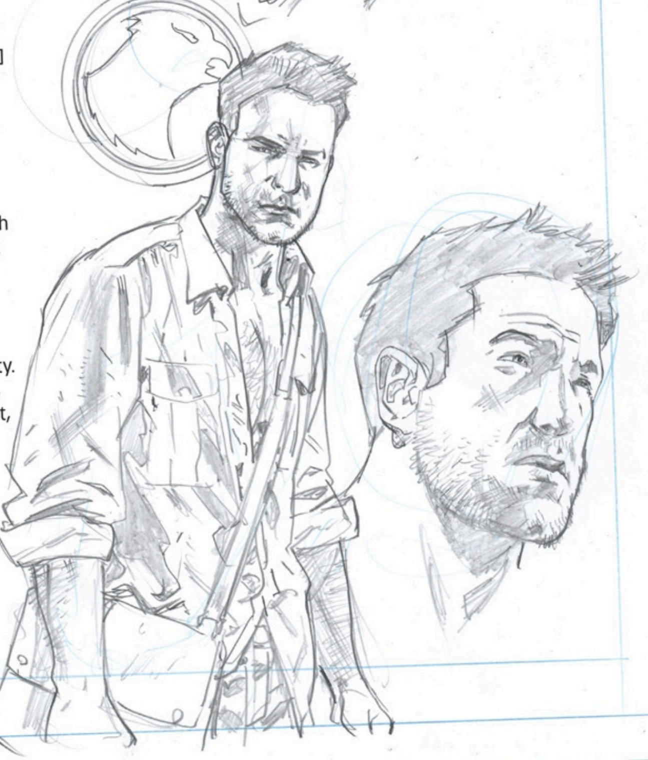
INSPIRATION AND GUIDANCE:

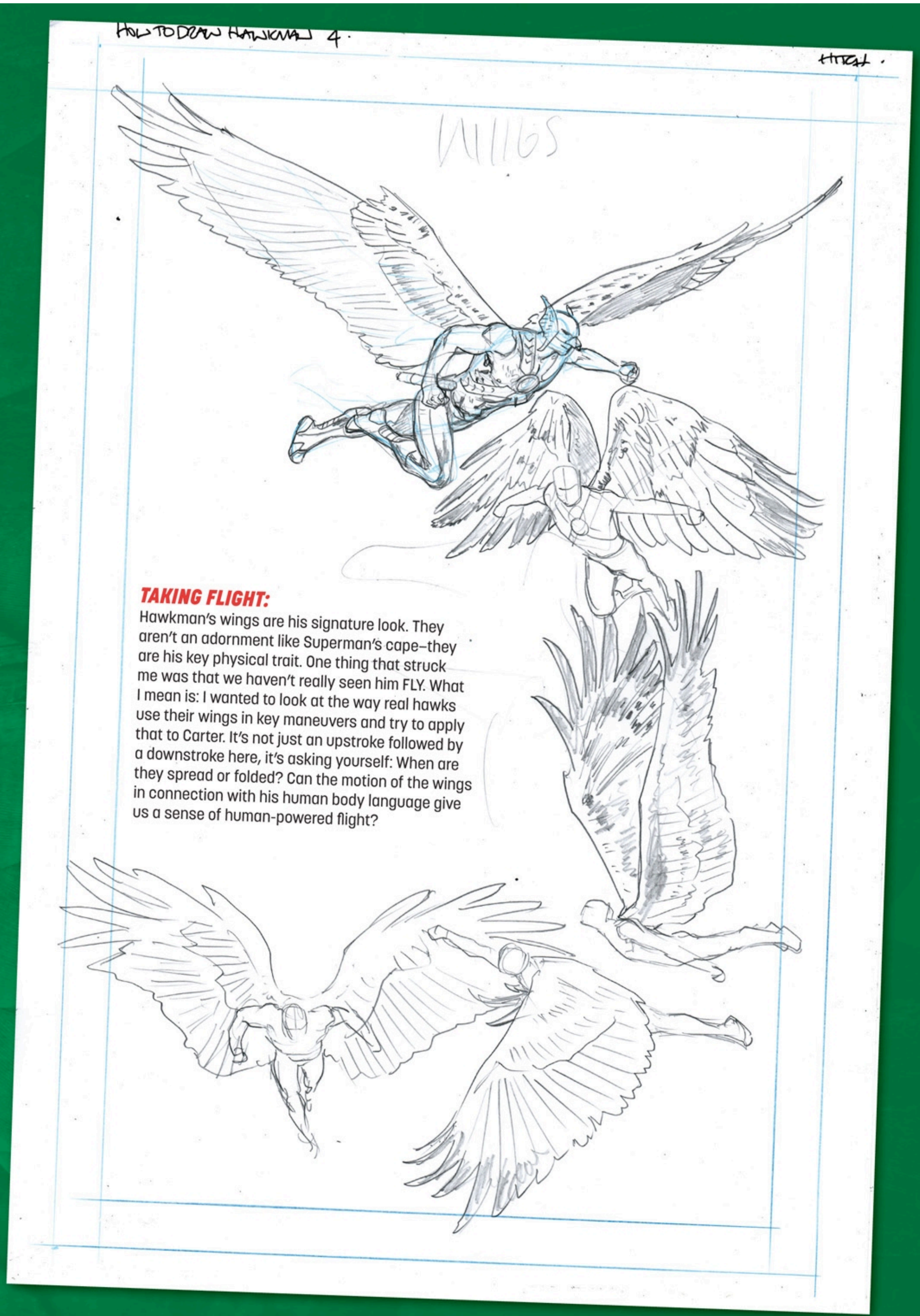
I've long loved the way Joe Kubert drew Hawkman. It was my introduction to the character and still the benchmark against which any other drawing of Hawkman can be measured. I confess I struggled with the headpiece as Joe drew it. It never looked quite right, so I did what I always do: try to work out a solid construction for it that can be understood and drawn from any angle. I always try to make my drawings feel like they can be built, and that helped me here. Hawkman's had a few different helmets over the years so it's fun to add another to the list.



THE HERO DEFINED:

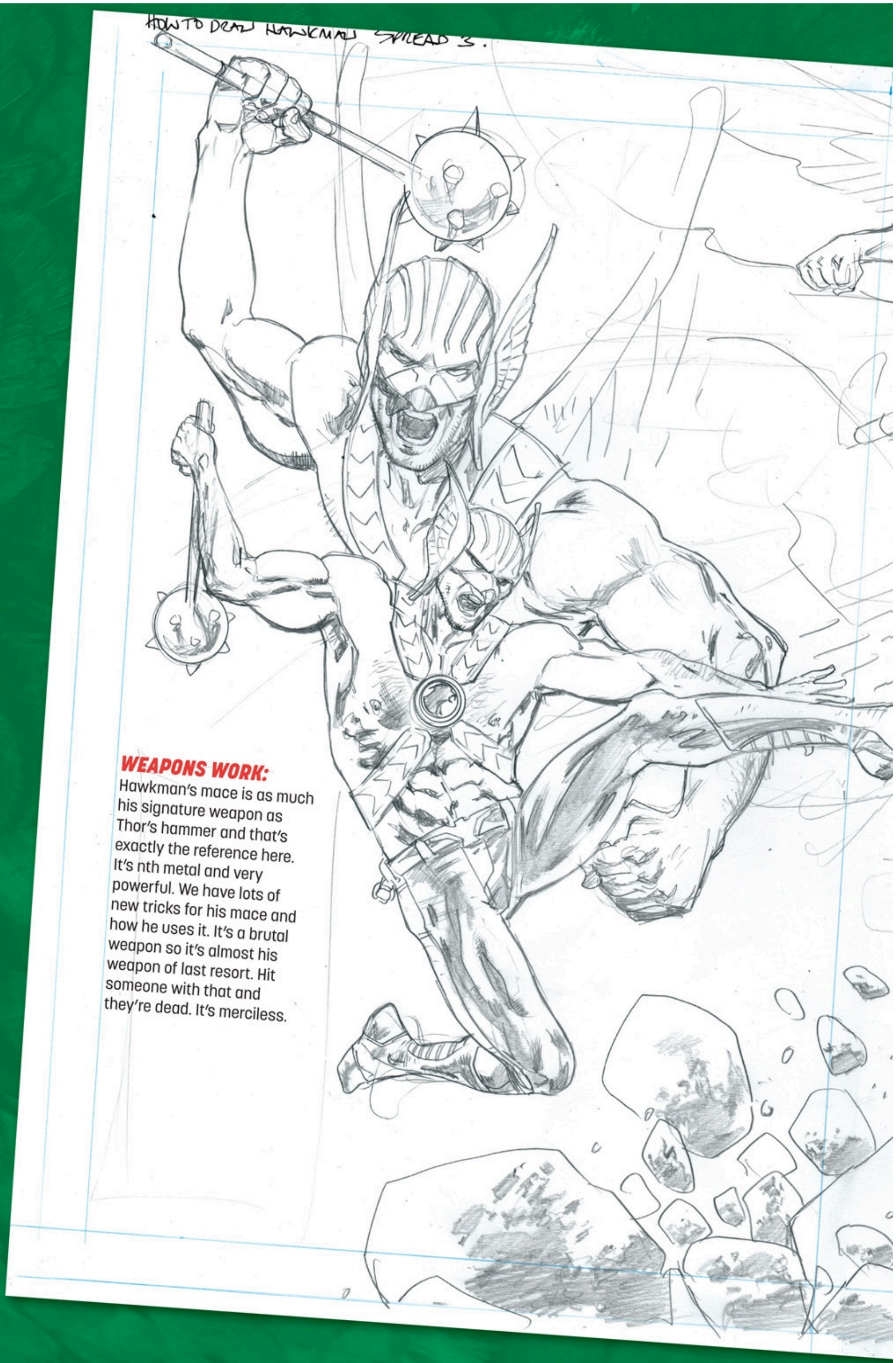
Behind the mask, [writer] Robert [Venditti] and I wanted Carter to be much more grounded than Hawkman. He's a man who's walked the Earth in search of history—his own as much as the world's. I felt that meant that rather than a typical superhero face, he should have a more weathered look. Handsome but not pretty. He's like Indiana Jones, an action-archaeologist, so we pared him down. No Batcave. No fortune. But on the ground, his knowledge, wits and gung-ho physicality make him a real action star.





TAKING FLIGHT:

Hawkman's wings are his signature look. They aren't an adornment like Superman's cape—they are his key physical trait. One thing that struck me was that we haven't really seen him FLY. What I mean is: I wanted to look at the way real hawks use their wings in key maneuvers and try to apply that to Carter. It's not just an upstroke followed by a downstroke here, it's asking yourself: When are they spread or folded? Can the motion of the wings in connection with his human body language give us a sense of human-powered flight?

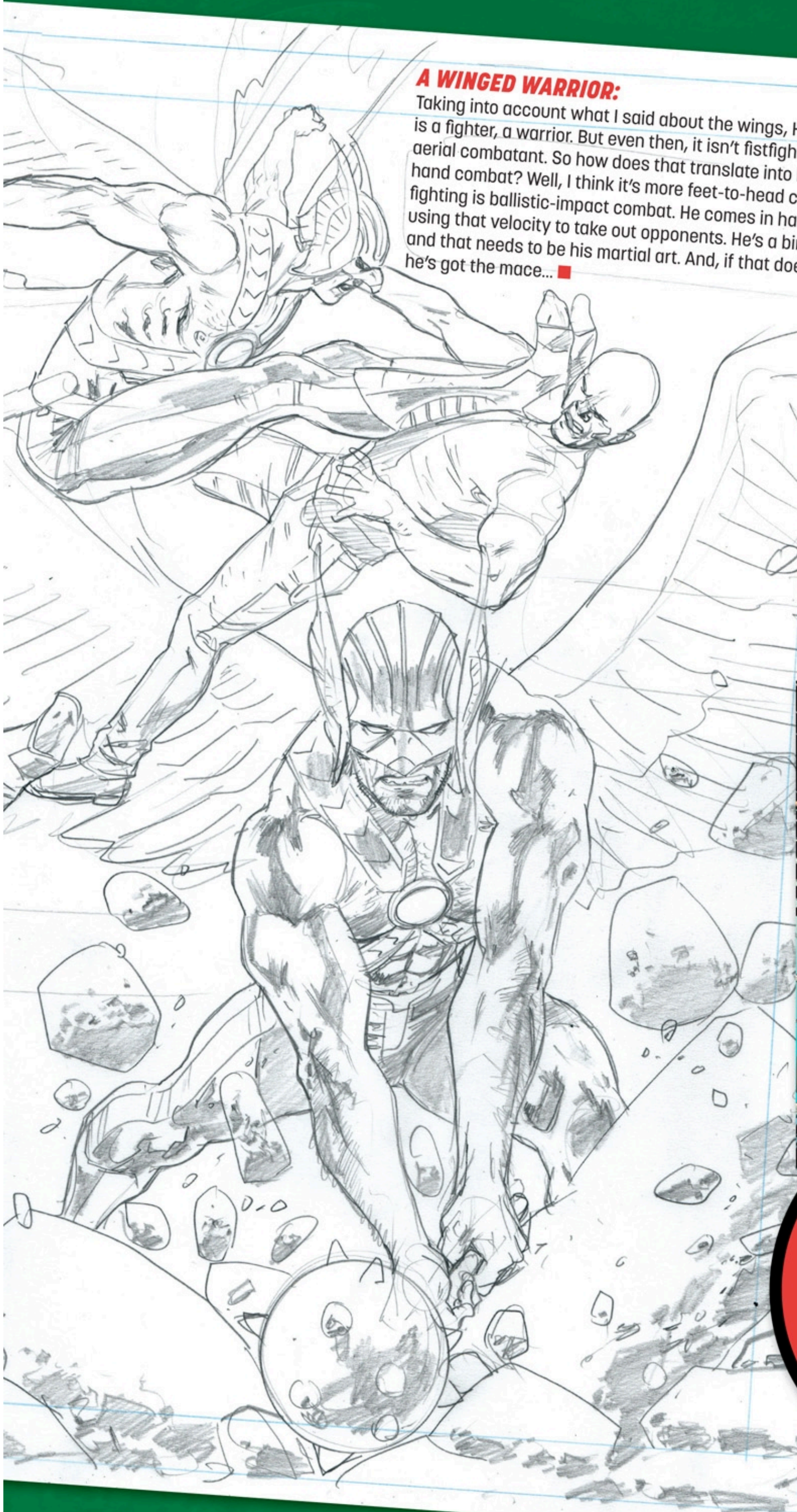

HOW TO DRAW HAWKMAN SPREAD 3.

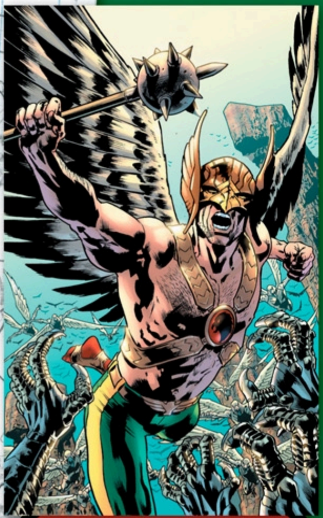
WEAPONS WORK:

Hawkman's mace is as much his signature weapon as Thor's hammer and that's exactly the reference here. It's nth metal and very powerful. We have lots of new tricks for his mace and how he uses it. It's a brutal weapon so it's almost his weapon of last resort. Hit someone with that and they're dead. It's merciless.

A WINGED WARRIOR:

Taking into account what I said about the wings, Hawkman is a fighter, a warrior. But even then, it isn't fistfights—he's an aerial combatant. So how does that translate into hand-to-hand combat? Well, I think it's more feet-to-head combat. His fighting is ballistic-impact combat. He comes in hard and fast, using that velocity to take out opponents. He's a bird of prey and that needs to be his martial art. And, if that doesn't work, he's got the mace... ■





READ
HAWKMAN #1
ON SALE **JUNE 13!**

SKETCHBOOK SUPERSTAR

Superstar artist and DC Publisher Jim Lee shares a look at his designs for Superman's newest and most deadly foe

Inker Scott Williams can't wait, and colorist Alex Sinclair is champing at the bit to get his hands on Jim Lee's newest pages.

Working at a steady clip of about a page a day for the last week, Lee's produced some of the most detailed, action-packed and flat-out gorgeous pages of his career—and that's saying something for the 53-year-old comics legend and DC publisher.

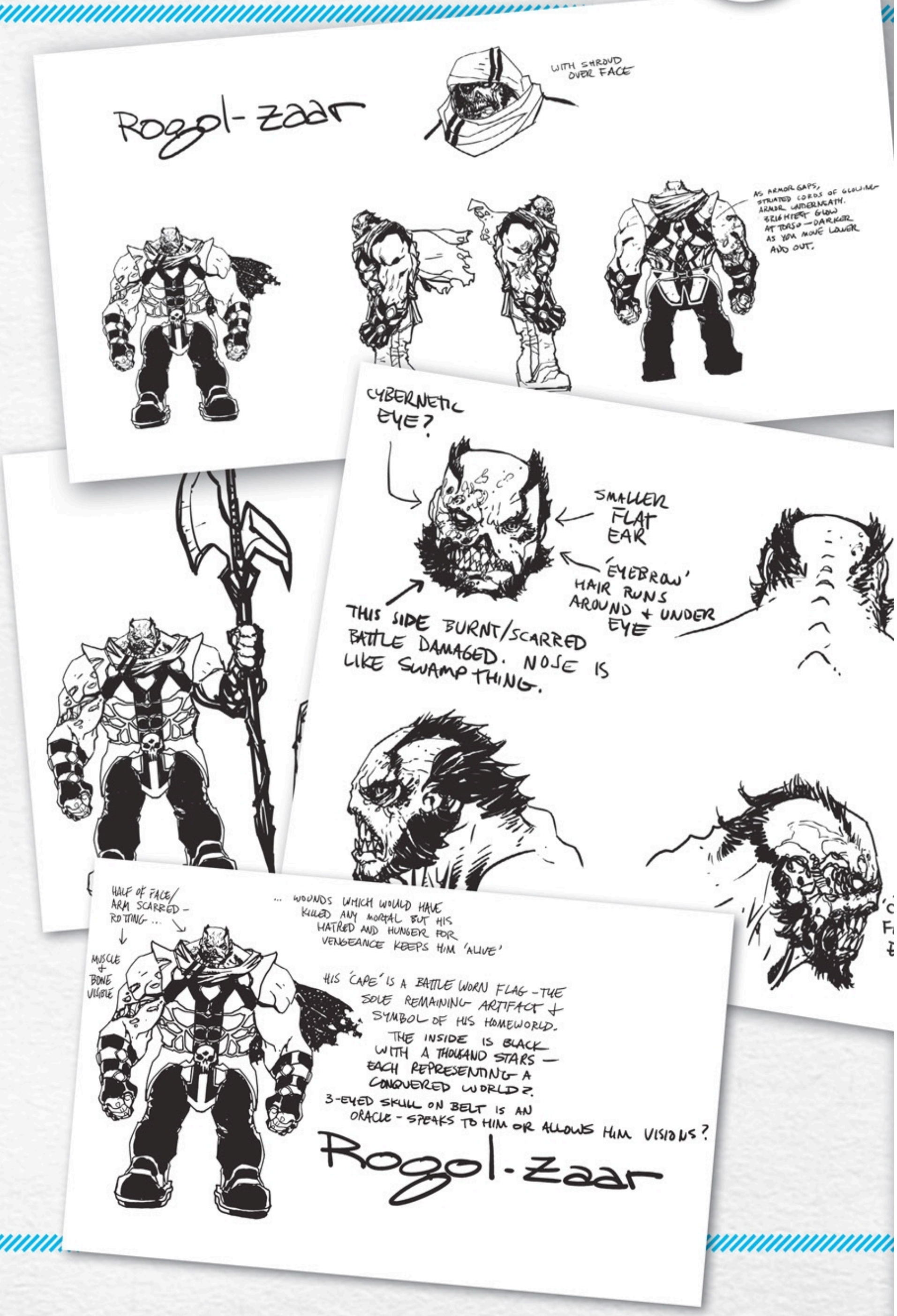
Some of what Lee's most excited about, as he draws the original, 12-page preview of Brian Michael Bendis' MAN OF STEEL miniseries (issue #1 on sale now), is the new big bad—Rogol Zaar.

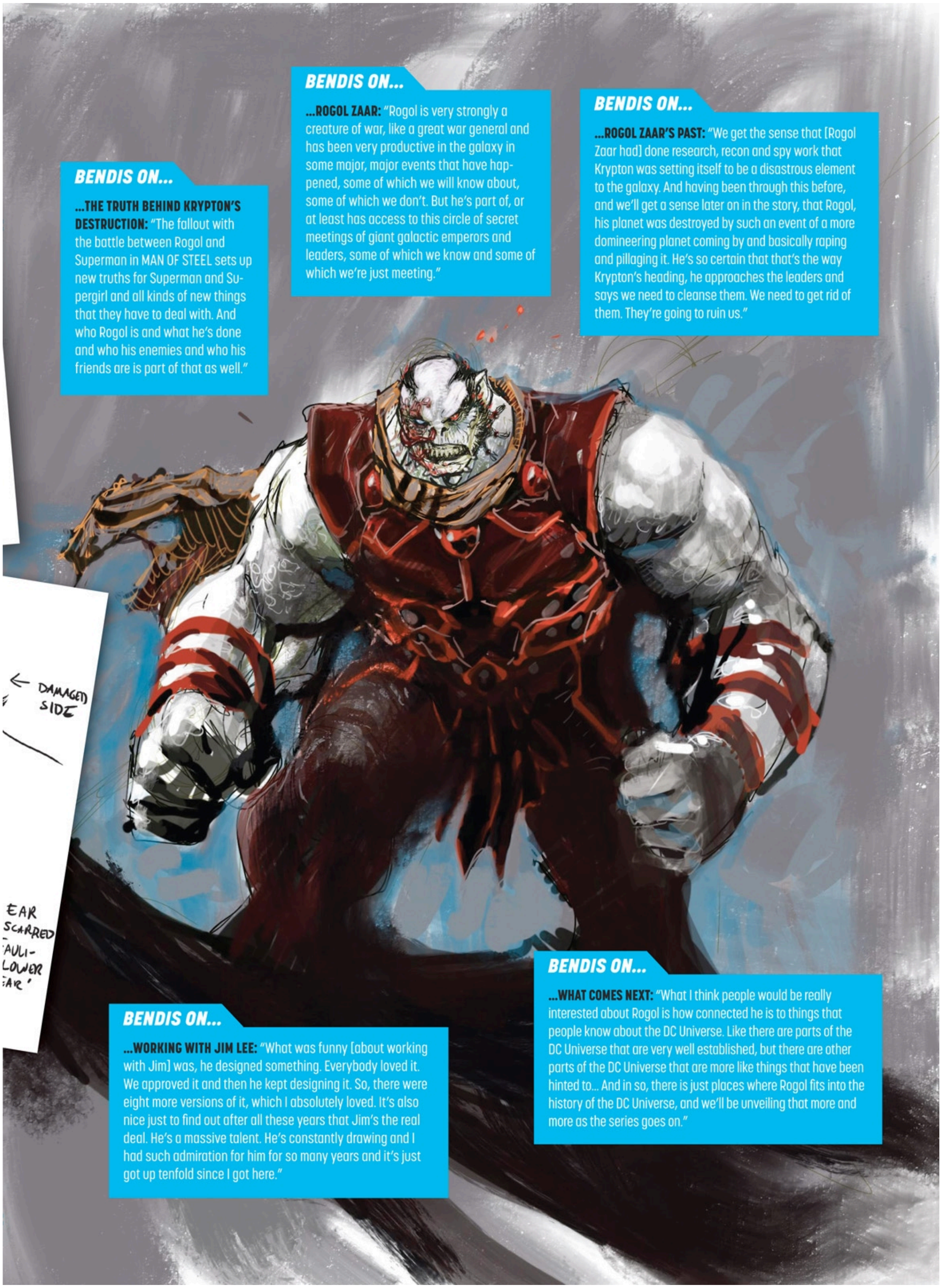
Lee and Bendis collaborated on ideas for the villain, and it immediately began to inspire Lee.

"It was a weird, like, algebra problem with a lot of variables," says Lee. "I think a lot of it started getting informed once Brian started telling me about the character's background. That he was this chieftain, that he was a rebel. There're bits of orc-ish, warlord in there. That's where I started."

Here's a sneak peek at some of the early work the artist produced as he and Bendis talked about the new Superman foe. ■

MAN OF STEEL on sale now!


Rogol-zaar
WITH SHROUD OVER FACE
AS ARMOR GAPS, STRIATED CORDS OF GLOWING ARMOR UNDERNEATH. BRIGHTEST GLOW AT TORSO — DARKER AS YOU MOVE LOWER AND OUT.
CYBERNETIC EYE?
SMALLER FLAT EAR
'EYEBROW' HAIR RUNS AROUND + UNDER EYE
THIS SIDE BURNT/SCARRED BATTLE DAMAGED. NOSE IS LIKE SWAMP THING.
HALF OF FACE/ ARM SCARRED - ROTTING ...
MUSCLE + BONE VISIBLE
... WOUNDS WHICH WOULD HAVE KILLED ANY MORTAL BUT HIS HATRED AND HUNGER FOR VENGEANCE KEEPS HIM 'ALIVE'
HIS 'CAPE' IS A BATTLE WORN FLAG - THE SOLE REMAINING ARTIFACT + SYMBOL OF HIS HOMEWORLD. THE INSIDE IS BLACK WITH A THOUSAND STARS — EACH REPRESENTING A CONQUERED WORLD?.
3-EYED SKULL ON BELT IS AN ORACLE - SPEAKS TO HIM OR ALLOWS HIM VISIONS?
Rogol-Zaar


← DAMAGED SIDE
EAR SCARRED - 'AULI- LOWER EAR'

BENDIS ON...

...THE TRUTH BEHIND KRYPTON'S DESTRUCTION: "The fallout with the battle between Rogol and Superman in MAN OF STEEL sets up new truths for Superman and Supergirl and all kinds of new things that they have to deal with. And who Rogol is and what he's done and who his enemies and who his friends are is part of that as well."

BENDIS ON...

...ROGOL ZAAR: "Rogol is very strongly a creature of war, like a great war general and has been very productive in the galaxy in some major, major events that have happened, some of which we will know about, some of which we don't. But he's part of, or at least has access to this circle of secret meetings of giant galactic emperors and leaders, some of which we know and some of which we're just meeting."

BENDIS ON...

...ROGOL ZAAR'S PAST: "We get the sense that [Rogol Zaar had] done research, recon and spy work that Krypton was setting itself to be a disastrous element to the galaxy. And having been through this before, and we'll get a sense later on in the story, that Rogol, his planet was destroyed by such an event of a more domineering planet coming by and basically raping and pillaging it. He's so certain that that's the way Krypton's heading, he approaches the leaders and says we need to cleanse them. We need to get rid of them. They're going to ruin us."

BENDIS ON...

...WORKING WITH JIM LEE: "What was funny [about working with Jim] was, he designed something. Everybody loved it. We approved it and then he kept designing it. So, there were eight more versions of it, which I absolutely loved. It's also nice just to find out after all these years that Jim's the real deal. He's a massive talent. He's constantly drawing and I had such admiration for him for so many years and it's just got up tenfold since I got here."

BENDIS ON...

...WHAT COMES NEXT: "What I think people would be really interested about Rogol is how connected he is to things that people know about the DC Universe. Like there are parts of the DC Universe that are very well established, but there are other parts of the DC Universe that are more like things that have been hinted to... And in so, there is just places where Rogol fits into the history of the DC Universe, and we'll be unveiling that more and more as the series goes on."

PRE-CRIME FIGHTERS

By Andrew Serwin

The kids from TEEN TITANS take a decidedly adult tack in their latest mission–hunting down & stopping criminals before they step out of line

Just fighting crime isn't enough for Robin and his new Teen Titans anymore: they want to stop it BEFORE it happens, AND preemptively punish the perpetrators to boot.

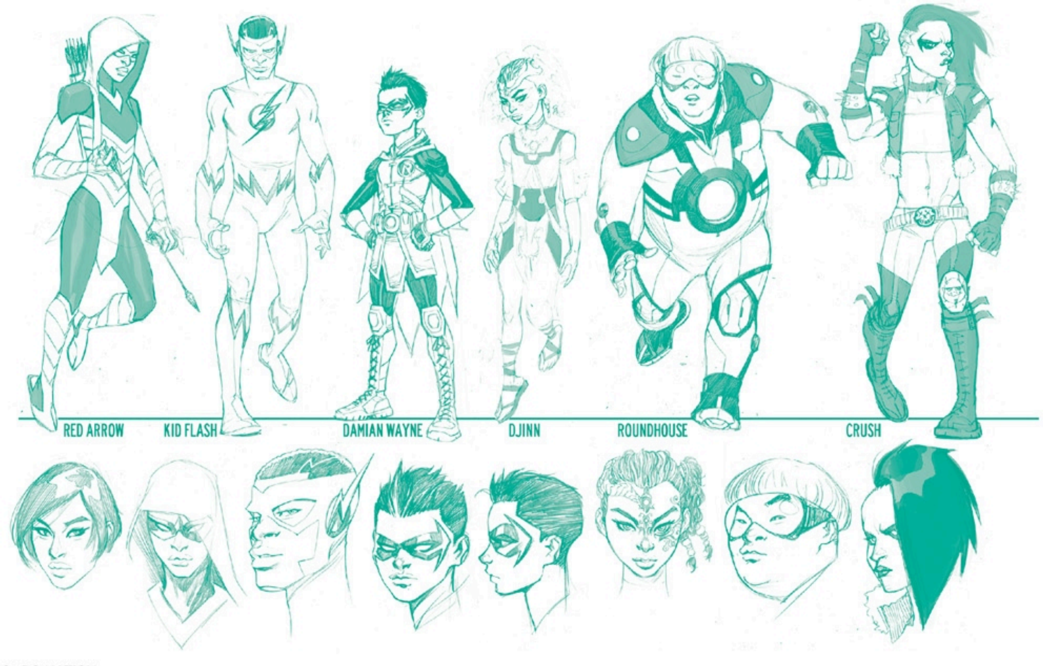
The Teen Wonder, a human weapon created by the League of Assassins and later adopted by his biological father, Batman, has had it up to his domino mask with taking on the same super-crooks over and over. In the wake of May's NO JUSTICE event, Robin forms a new, harder-hitting version of the team and gives them a new mission: hunt down criminals before they can strike.

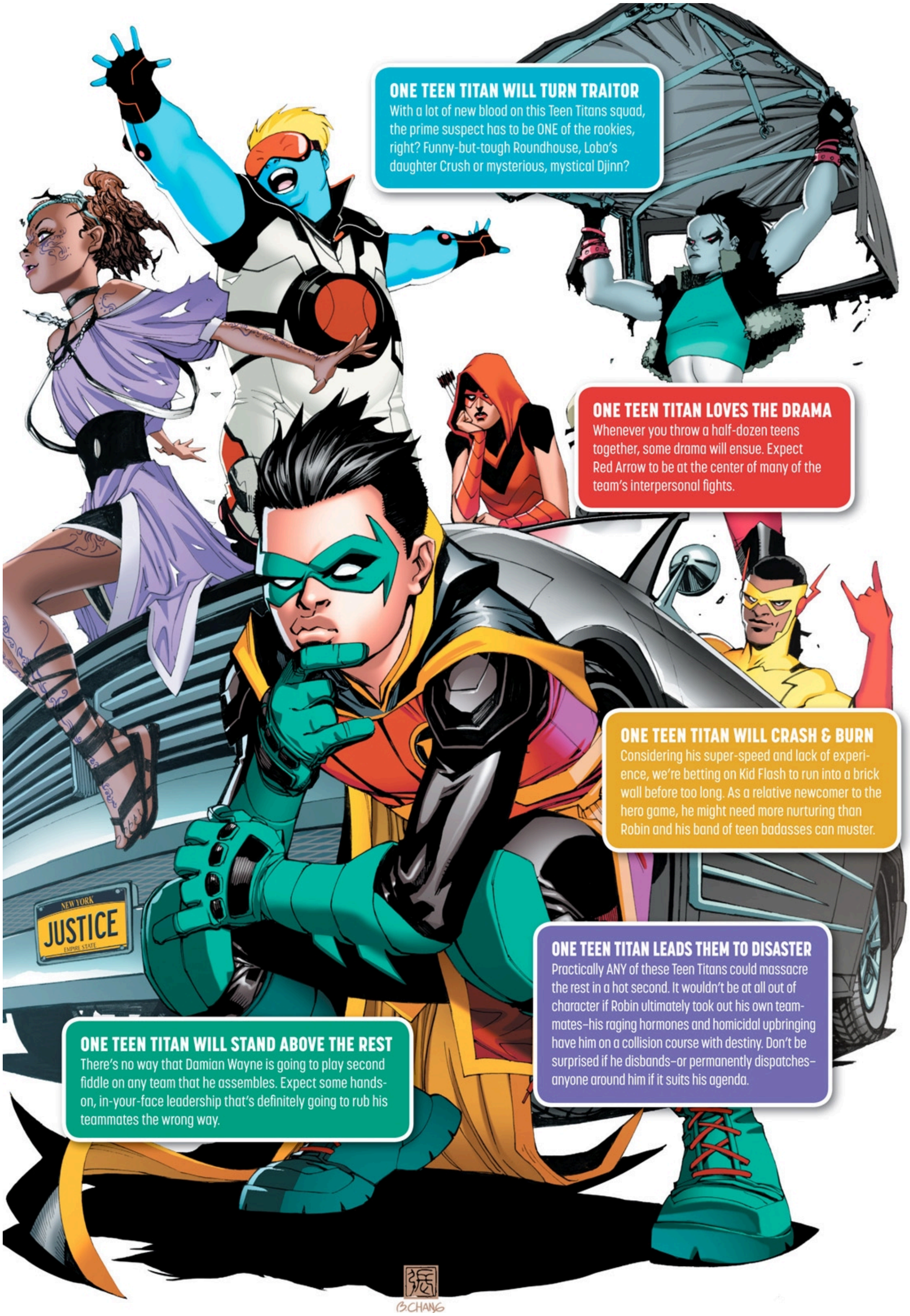
"Because he listened to the 'grown-ups,' a whole planet was lost [in NO JUSTICE #1]. The adults failed," explains new TEEN TITANS writer Adam Glass. "They were wrong, and Robin is going to make sure that he and his generation of heroes start marching to the beat of their own drum. Their victories and mistakes will be theirs to own. And Robin is cool living and dying by his own sword."

But unbeknownst to his new teammates–Red Arrow, Kid Flash (Wallace West) and newbies Roundhouse, Crush and Djinn–Damian's got a secret agenda and benefactor that would destroy the team if they ever came to light–two top secret subplots that will haunt the team and book for a while.

"Robin finally has his team. Not Dick's hand-me-downs," says Glass. "This is his team to mold. And unlike past Teen Titans incarnations, nobody here is questioning his leadership. But they are fighting amongst one another, and Robin finds himself stuck in the middle of many different philosophies. So buckle up, because it's going to be a bumpy ride mixed with a lot of teenage hormones."

Take a deep dive into the dynamics and dysfunction of Damian Wayne's pre-crime-fighters in the new TEEN TITANS and find out who's most likely to turn traitor, fall in love and more before picking up the TEEN TITANS SPECIAL on June 24! ■





ONE TEEN TITAN WILL TURN TRAITOR

With a lot of new blood on this Teen Titans squad, the prime suspect has to be ONE of the rookies, right? Funny-but-tough Roundhouse, Lobo's daughter Crush or mysterious, mystical Djinn?

ONE TEEN TITAN LOVES THE DRAMA

Whenever you throw a half-dozen teens together, some drama will ensue. Expect Red Arrow to be at the center of many of the team's interpersonal fights.

ONE TEEN TITAN WILL CRASH & BURN

Considering his super-speed and lack of experience, we're betting on Kid Flash to run into a brick wall before too long. As a relative newcomer to the hero game, he might need more nurturing than Robin and his band of teen badasses can muster.

ONE TEEN TITAN LEADS THEM TO DISASTER

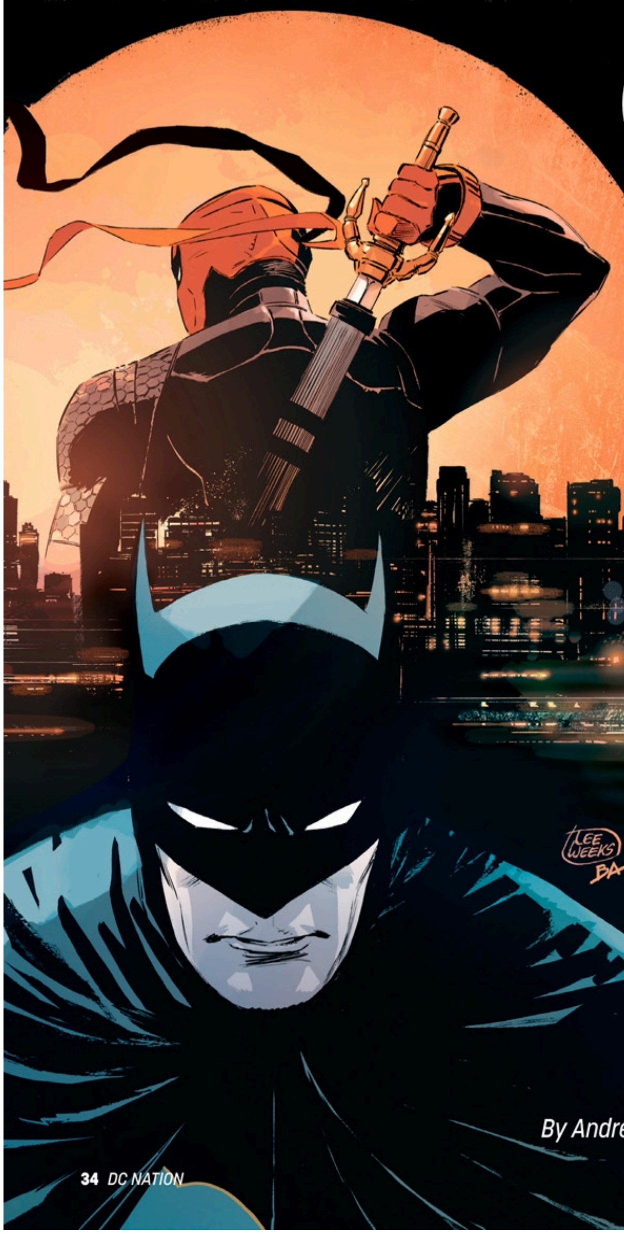
Practically ANY of these Teen Titans could massacre the rest in a hot second. It wouldn't be at all out of character if Robin ultimately took out his own teammates–his raging hormones and homicidal upbringing have him on a collision course with destiny. Don't be surprised if he disbands–or permanently dispatches–anyone around him if it suits his agenda.

ONE TEEN TITAN WILL STAND ABOVE THE REST

There's no way that Damian Wayne is going to play second fiddle on any team that he assembles. Expect some hands-on, in-your-face leadership that's definitely going to rub his teammates the wrong way.

THE DARK KNIGHT VS. THE META MERC

Writer Christopher Priest pits Deathstroke against Batman in a battle over sidekicks and family, finally showing which is the ultimate fighter of the DC Universe



By Andrew Serwin

The gloves come off and the blood begins to flow as Batman battles Deathstroke to finally decide who is the DCU's ultimate fighter and tactician.

After discovering a mystery that leads him to Slade Wilson, Batman goes head to head with the deadly assassin in DEATHSTROKE #32, part three of "Deathstroke vs. Batman." Writer Christopher Priest plays referee between the superstar super-fighters and gives some context for how the two match up.

DC NATION: "Deathstroke vs. Batman" seems like a no-brainer; every DC fan worth their salt will be looking at this one. Is this a fan's dream project or what?

Why? [*laughs*] I'm obviously happy the book is ordering in so strongly, but I'm at a loss to explain why. I assure you, it has nothing to do with me. [*smiles*]

What's your take on pairing these guys up? They don't have a ton of history together; anything you're looking to explore on that front? And what sort of fireworks can fans expect?

Oh, sure, there'll be fisticuffs, but you can't fill six issues with that. Well, you could, but I'm not sure how to make that interesting. What's interesting, to me, anyway, is performing a kind of deconstruction on the concept of Batman as well as the time-honored superhero tradition of young or neophyte sidekicks being put into dangerous situations and the suspension of disbelief we, as readers, routinely employ. Slade (Deathstroke) Wilson lost one son and nearly lost a second because of his choices as a costumed super-being.

So, Deathstroke is judging Batman for his number of Robins...

He tends to look upon Batman's choices with some level of contempt and unexpressed concern for the chain of young people Batman has employed to fulfill that sidekick role.

That sounds like it gets personal.

Ultimately, the major theme of this event is family: what that means, why it's important. Alfred and, to a lesser extent, Deathstroke's partner Wintergreen perform as surrogate fathers, and their character arcs revolve around their concerns for how the "kids" have turned out. Deathstroke's relentless taunting of Batman provokes anxiety and self-examination in Batman [and Bruce] Wayne, while the whole question of Robin's paternity has the potential to completely upend Deathstroke's already complicated existence.

What are our values? What kinds of people are we creating in our children, and how much, if any of that, is within our control?

These anxieties are common among parents, and Batman and Deathstroke are not immune to regret.

Speaking of showdowns, what's the tale of the tape on these two? Who's got the edge? Internet chatter says Deathstroke wins every time, unless Bats uses gadgets or trickery...how's the Internet stack up on this argument?

Well, the Internet is probably right. [*grins*

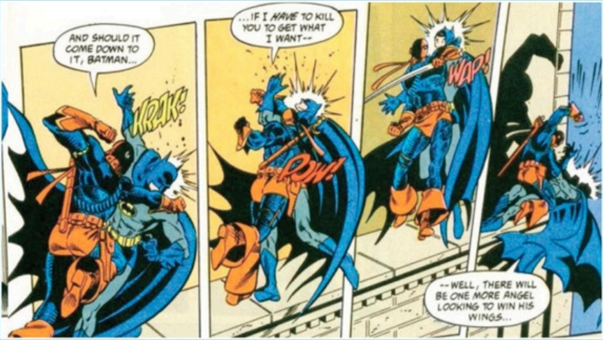
Slade Wilson is an enhanced metahuman with approximately [above peak human] strength level, which means he can't lift a car over his head, but he could conceivably lift the front end–engine and all–at least up to shoulder level. He's also much, much faster than a normal human, so Batman has to be very, very careful in how he approaches combat with such a person, which, by definition, includes gadgets and deceit. Batman must keep Deathstroke off balance or it's over. ■

DEATHSTROKE #32
HITS STANDS
JUNE 6!

FIGHT CARD

A blow-by-blow account of Batman's battles with Deathstroke, the Terminator

"Deathstroke vs. Batman" won't be the first time that Slade Wilson and the Caped Crusader cross swords, but it might just be the last. They're two of the greatest combatants in the DC Universe–and readers are about to find out just who's number one. Here's a look at four of their most memorable throw-downs!


AND SHOULD IT COME DOWN TO IT, BATMAN...
KRAK!
...IF I HAVE TO KILL YOU TO GET WHAT I WANT--
WAP!
--WELL, THERE WILL BE ONE MORE ANGEL LOOKING TO WIN HIS WINGS...

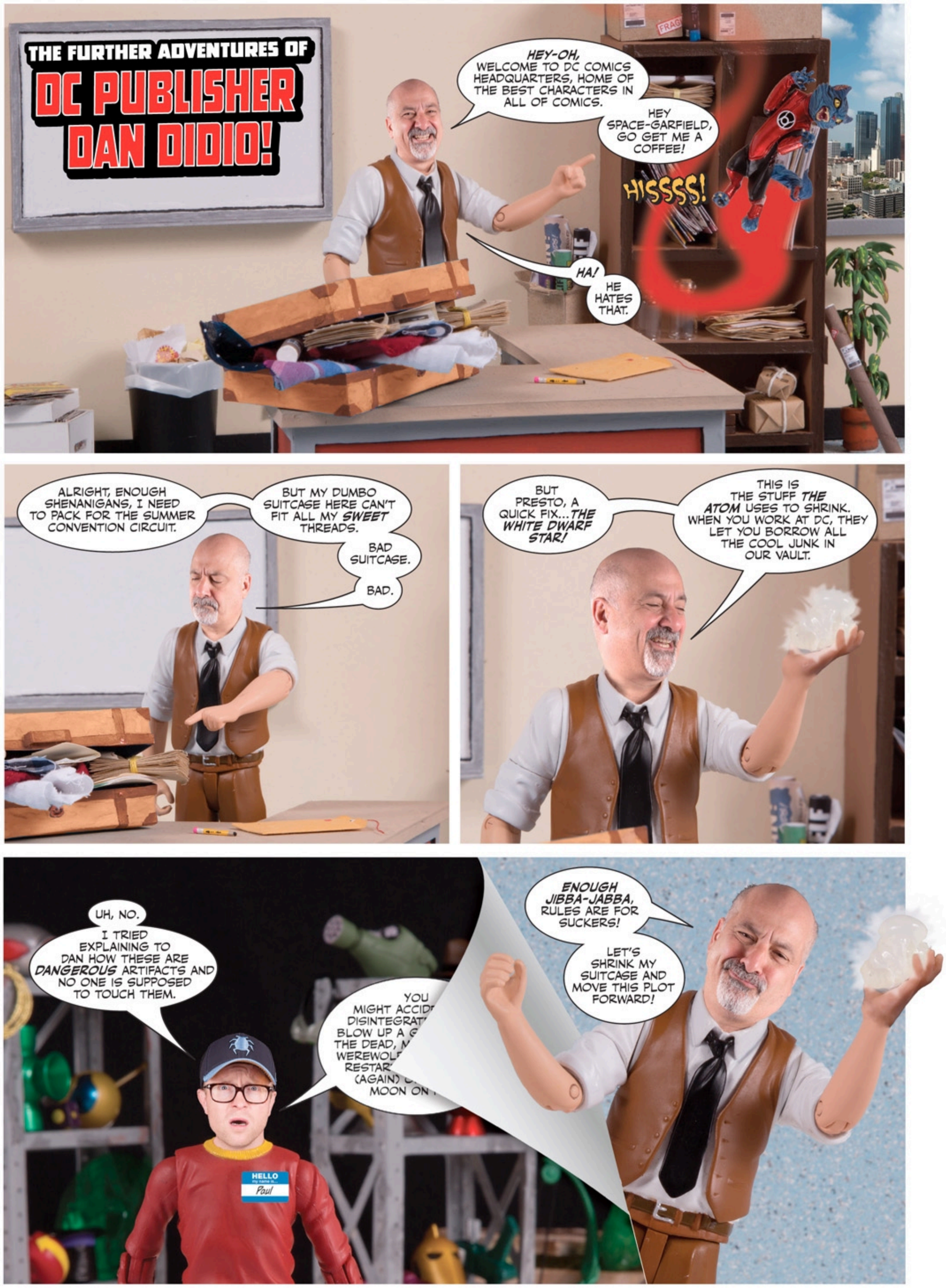
ROUND ONE: *DEATHSTROKE* #6-9 (1991)
The "City of Assassins" storyline finds Slade in Gotham crossing paths with Batman when the Dark Knight decides to protect a witness that Deathstroke has vowed to kill. Slade decimates Batman in the span of a few pages–he's super-enhanced and was trained to kill, after all–and leaves the World's Greatest Detective struggling to locate the truck that just ran him over. **WINNER: DEATHSTROKE**

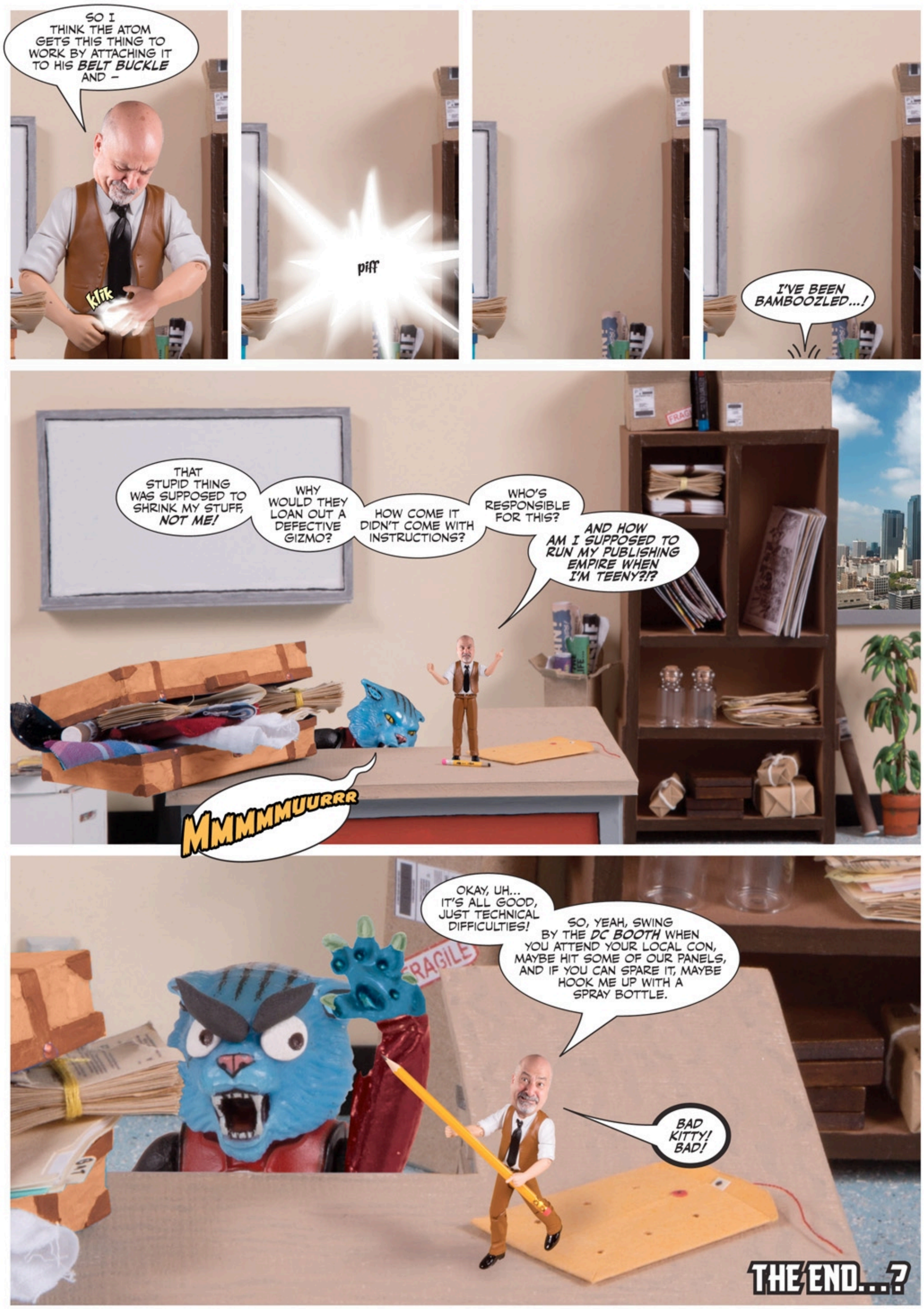
ROUND TWO: "ARKHAM ASYLUM ORIGINS BOSS BATTLE" (2013)
With millions of YouTube viewings to its credit, and probably a hundred times that many actual plays by gamers, this epic digital duel deserves main event status. The outcome depends on your skill level, but Bats can't continue without beating Slade, so it's a Dark Knight decision. **WINNER: BATMAN**

ROUND THREE: *DETECTIVE COMICS* #708-710 (2014)
Batman's trying to stop Deathstroke from collecting on the "Death Lottery" in this storyline, as a number of hired guns descend on Gotham to compete for $5 million. Batman takes a beating, but comes out on top with a little chicanery–keeping Slade from his contract, taking his gun and trussing him up like a roped steer in the process. **WINNER: BATMAN**

ROUND FOUR: *DEATHSTROKE* #5 (2015)
Writer and artist Tony S. Daniel delivers a whopping 16 pages of Deathstroke and Batman throwing down in cinematic combat, in a story appropriately titled "Battle Royale"! It ends with the Dark Knight left in the dust as Slade and Harley Quinn ride off into the sunset–not a good look for a certain Caped Crusader.
WINNER: DEATHSTROKE

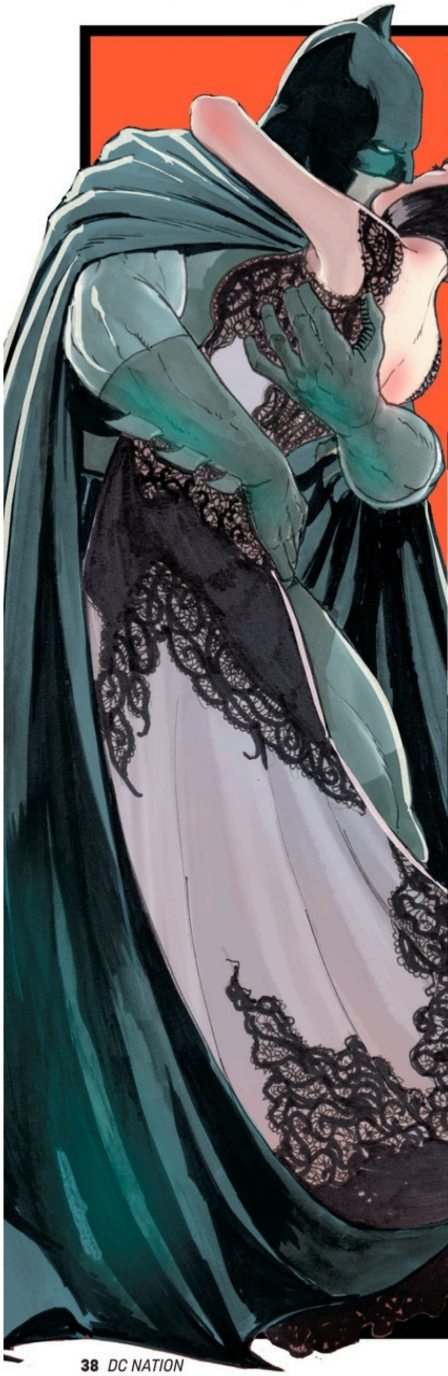
ROUND FIVE: "Deathstroke vs. Batman" wraps up in DEATHSTROKE #35 by Christopher Priest and Carlo Pagulayan, on sale Sept. 5!


THE FURTHER ADVENTURES OF DC PUBLISHER DAN DIDIO!
HEY-OH, WELCOME TO DC COMICS HEADQUARTERS, HOME OF THE BEST CHARACTERS IN ALL OF COMICS.
HEY SPACE-GARFIELD, GO GET ME A COFFEE!
HISSSS!
HA!
HE HATES THAT.
ALRIGHT, ENOUGH SHENANIGANS, I NEED TO PACK FOR THE SUMMER CONVENTION CIRCUIT.
BUT MY DUMBO SUITCASE HERE CAN'T FIT ALL MY *SWEET* THREADS.
BAD SUITCASE.
BAD.
BUT PRESTO, A QUICK FIX...*THE WHITE DWARF STAR!*
THIS IS THE STUFF *THE ATOM* USES TO SHRINK. WHEN YOU WORK AT DC, THEY LET YOU BORROW ALL THE COOL JUNK IN OUR VAULT.
UH, NO.
I TRIED EXPLAINING TO DAN HOW THESE ARE *DANGEROUS* ARTIFACTS AND NO ONE IS SUPPOSED TO TOUCH THEM.
YOU MIGHT ACCID DISINTEGRAT BLOW UP A G THE DEAD, M WEREWOL RESTAR (AGAIN) MOON ON
HELLO my name is... Paul
ENOUGH JIBBA-JABBA, RULES ARE FOR SUCKERS!
LET'S SHRINK MY SUITCASE AND MOVE THIS PLOT FORWARD!


SO I THINK THE ATOM GETS THIS THING TO WORK BY ATTACHING IT TO HIS *BELT BUCKLE* AND –
klik
piff
I'VE BEEN BAMBOOZLED...!
THAT STUPID THING WAS SUPPOSED TO SHRINK MY STUFF, *NOT ME!*
WHY WOULD THEY LOAN OUT A DEFECTIVE GIZMO?
HOW COME IT DIDN'T COME WITH INSTRUCTIONS?
WHO'S RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS?
AND HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO RUN MY PUBLISHING EMPIRE WHEN I'M TEENY?!?
MMMMMUURRR
OKAY, UH... IT'S ALL GOOD, JUST TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES!
SO, YEAH, SWING BY THE *DC BOOTH* WHEN YOU ATTEND YOUR LOCAL CON, MAYBE HIT SOME OF OUR PANELS, AND IF YOU CAN SPARE IT, MAYBE HOOK ME UP WITH A SPRAY BOTTLE.
BAD KITTY! BAD!
THE END...?

DIRECT CURRENTS

Your all-encompassing look at the DC Universe for July 2018



BOOK TO WATCH

BATMAN #50 (July 4)

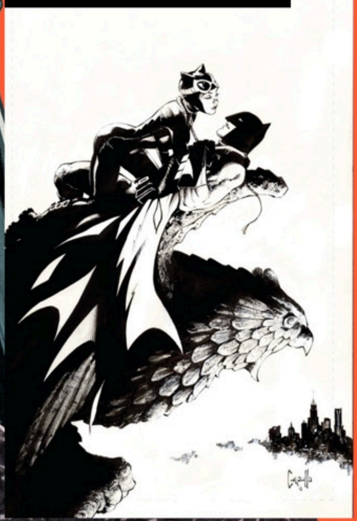
The wedding you never thought you'd see! The Batrimony is real as Bruce Wayne and Selina Kyle head down the aisle in a can't-miss, double-length milestone ish that reshapes Gotham City. All their friends (and a few enemies?) will be party to a comic book coupling for the ages.

Superstar scribe Tom King officiates the sure-to-be-offbeat nuptials, joined by an all-star lineup of classic Bat-artists doffing their hats to the lucky couple in a series of pre-wedding flashback scenes to set the romantic mood.

King, whose 50th issue marks the halfway point of his plans for 100 issues of the Dark Knight, says the idea for a wedding dates back to his earliest involvement in the book.

"When I first came onto BATMAN, [writer] Scott Snyder, who was leaving his epic and historic run on the comic, and I got together at 3:00 in the morning at some con, with a bottle of liquor between us, and started doing swigs," recalls King. "We started saying, 'What hasn't been done with Batman?' And we went back and forth, and challenged each other from the most absurd concepts to the most soap opera-y. And we had trouble thinking of something, because it's been 79 years, and the best storytellers in any medium, and in every medium, telling stories of this person.

"But here in issue #50, you're going to get something you've never seen in Batman before," promises the writer. "Taking Batman to a place, emotionally, that he's never been. And I think doing something new with the character, and yet still staying true, is the greatest joy of writing comics." ■



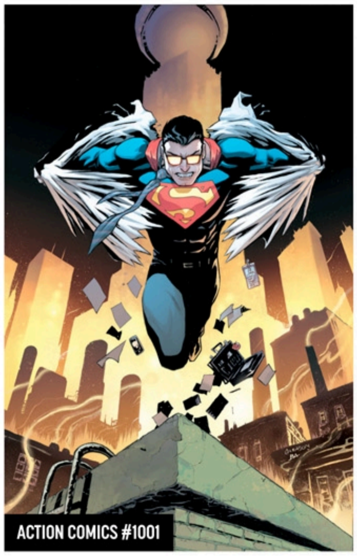
BATMAN #50 interior art by Greg Capullo

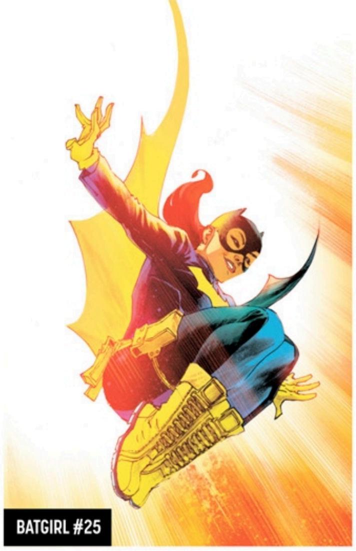
Tom King (w), Mikel Janín, David Finch, Joëlle Jones, Mitch Gerads, Lee Bermejo, Rafael Albuquerque, Neal Adams, Andy Kubert, Becky Cloonan, Ty Templeton, José Luis García-López & more (a)

BATMAN #51 (July 18)

The honeymoon's over for Bruce Wayne: Gotham's most prominent citizen gets selected for jury duty in a chilling court case with Mr. Freeze at its core. Freeze claims the charges should be dismissed because Batman used excessive force; cue the outrage and media circus. While doing his civic duty, Wayne's forced to take a hard look at the Dark Knight's methods. And hey...what is Dick Grayson doing running around Gotham dressed as Batman?

Tom King (w), Lee Weeks (a)


ACTION COMICS #1001


BATGIRL #25

ACTION COMICS #1001 (JULY 25)

Writer Brian Michael Bendis' new chapter for Superman and the world of tomorrow starts here! The enormous fallout from the MAN OF STEEL miniseries starts here as Metropolis enters a new age! The Daily Planet teeters on the brink of disaster! A new criminal element has made its way onto the streets of Superman's hometown! The longest-running comic of all time explodes off the page with art by fan favorite Patrick Gleason.

Brian Michael Bendis (w) Patrick Gleason (a)

AQUAMAN #38 (JULY 18)

Behold King Rath, wielder of the abyssal dark magic and destined to conquer all of Atlantis! What power exists to turn the tide? Aquaman's trident? Scuttled! The armies of Atlantis? Circling the drain! It's all on Aquaman...or is it? The King Wrath saga ends here...and a new threat rises from the depths.

Dan Abnett (w), Riccardo Federici (a)

BATGIRL #25 (JULY 25)

On Barbara's return to Gotham, family matters force her to confront her complicated relationship with Dick Grayson. But does Dick have time for a heart-to-heart while subbing as Batman with Bruce Wayne out of action? This extr-sized anniversary issue also offers a look at the next arc of the series from Mairghread Scott and Paul Pelletier, as the monstrous villain Grotesque murders wealthy art owners and defiles their bodies to create his own "art." And since this is the issue that keeps on giving, also look for a special new story from Harley Quinn co-creator Paul Dini and artist Ema Lupacchino.

Hail, hail, the Bat-gang's all here!

Marguerite Bennett, Mairghread Scott & Paul Dini (w); Dan Panosian, Paul Pelletier & Ema Lupacchino (a)

BATMAN BEYOND #23 (JULY 25)

Batman's got a bullseye on his back in part four of "Target: Batman." Thanks to the machinations of the Scarecrow, the entire city of Neo-Gotham is looking to take aim at Batman–including his own partner, Robin! Will hero turn against hero when fear is in the air? Elsewhere, former Royal Flush Gang member Melanie Walker looks to upgrade her image and take on a new heroic mantle, so she seeks advice from newsman Jack Ryder–unaware that he's a total costumed Creeper!

Dan Jurgens (w), Will Conrad (a)

BATWOMAN #17 (JULY 17)

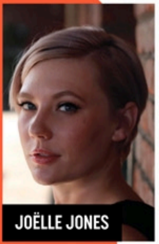
Kate Kane's latest assignment leaves her a cold case that forces her to team up with GCPD Detective Renee Montoya, and which, as usual, has Gotham running out of time. Is this the start of a beautiful new crime-fighting partnership? No spoilers, but expect sparks and punches to fly!

Marguerite Bennett (w), Fernando Blanco (a)

THE CURSE OF BRIMSTONE #4 (JULY 4)

It's time to let off some steam with a classic "Water vs. Fire" comic book showdown! The fiery Brimstone clashes with Detritus, a 10-foot-tall humanoid wall of Dark Water created by the same mysterious "Salesman" who gave Brimstone his powers! More secrets are

CATWOMAN #1 (JULY 4)

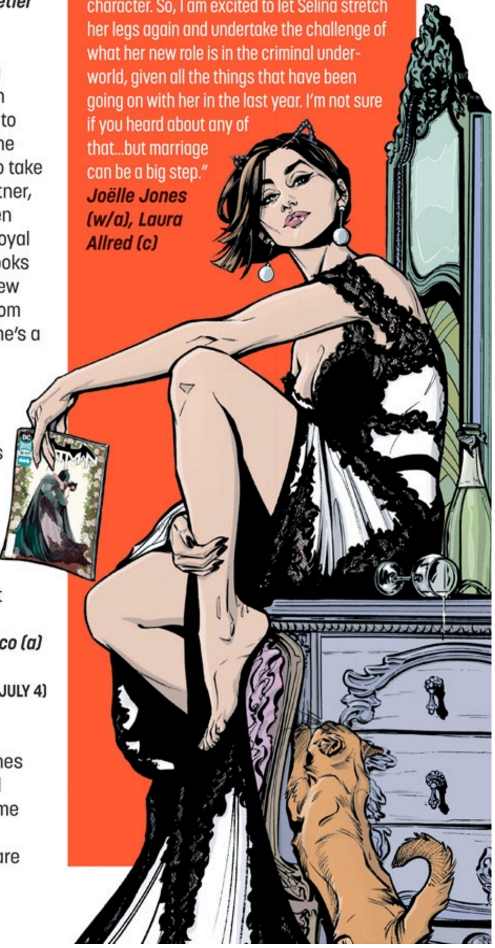

JOËLLE JONES

The wedding night's barely over before Catwoman's back on the streets, this time exposing a copycat pulling heists around Gotham. As Selina cracks the whip on her former criminal cohorts, she's attracting unwanted attention from one of Gotham's most dangerous groups. The mob? Nope. Try the GCPD. And if the Bat-Bride didn't have enough troubles, don't miss the debut of an all-new villain determined to make trouble for all nine of Selina's lives.

The Eisner-nominated team of writer/artist Joëlle Jones and colorist Laura Allred (Lady Killer) reunite for this much-lauded new launch starring Catwoman in full-on noir detective mode.

"I always liked the more fun, carefree Catwoman who brought a sense of play to the otherwise serious Batman stories," says the Eisner nominated artist. "For me, the Michelle Pfeiffer and Batman: The Animated Series versions were major inspirations, and led me to the comics and wanting to work on the character. So, I am excited to let Selina stretch her legs again and undertake the challenge of what her new role is in the criminal underworld, given all the things that have been going on with her in the last year. I'm not sure if you heard about any of that...but marriage can be a big step."

Joëlle Jones (w/a), Laura Allred (c)



CORPS CONCEPTS

About to exit his five-plus-year run on the franchise, longtime Green Lantern writer Robert Venditti looks back and counts down the highlights of his own cosmic crusade

ROBERT VENDITTI

After nearly six years and 97 issues writing the adventures of outer space super-cop Hal Jordan, Robert Venditti plans to say goodbye to the character and muster out of the Green Lantern Corps in August.

We cornered Venditti by the Sciencells on Mogo in Sector Zero to uncover his five favorite aspects of writing the series, before he and longtime collaborator Rafa Sandavol wrap things up with Hal Jordan and The Green Lantern Corps #50.

5 OVERCOMING FEAR Venditti confesses a love for the "instantly relatable, and maybe most admirable" core ability of the Green Lanterns: overcoming fear. "Each Lantern applies that simple, basic concept in different ways, too," explains Venditti. "How Hal overcomes his fear is much different than how Guy does it."

4 CUSTOMIZING CONSTRUCTS Venditti's note on the uniqueness of the four main GL heroes–Hal Jordan, John Stewart, Guy Gardner and Kyle Rayner–runs to the core of how each one uses those powers. "You can tailor the nature of the power-set to each of the characters," he says. "Kyle makes an artificial heart and puts it into someone's chest to keep them alive. Guy makes a car so he can smash someone's head in the door."

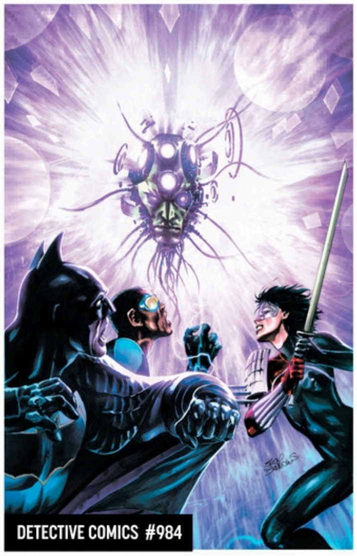
3 VILE VILLAINS The breadth of Green Lantern's gallery of foes allows for a wide range of stories, according to Venditti: "Green Lantern has one of the few mythologies with rogues both earthbound and cosmic," he says. "You have crazy, oddball earth villains like Sonar or Goldface. Then there are the world-shaking cosmic foes like Sinestro and the Controllers. Most characters only give you earth- or space-bound, not both!"

GUY GARDNER

2 THE COSMIC CORPS "Hand-in-hand with the wide range of cosmic villains is an assortment of heroes," follows Venditti, calling out specific favorites such as "the sentient planet Mogo or the little squirrel, Ch'p" and bringing it all back to how each character's powers are the same, but totally unique. "Applying constructs and powers uniquely is a rare opportunity."

1 THE FOUR CORPSMEN When it comes to what he loves about writing Green Lantern, Venditti saves his favorite for last: "The Four Corpsmen," a play on the Four Horsemen of '90s pro wrestling fame. "For all of their differences, the history between them–in the face of all kinds of crazy events–has bonded them together." That history allows Venditti to settle right in with his heroes, likening writing the Corpsmen's' friendship as "getting to hang out with friends and then just writing it all down." ■

Catch the final three issues of Robert Venditti's Green Lantern epic with Hal Jordan and the Green Lantern Corps in issues #48-50, beginning July 11.



DETECTIVE COMICS #984

revealed of the Brimstone curse as the Salesman's sinister campaign begins to reveal itself!
Justin Jordan (w), Philip Tan (a)

CYBORG #24 (JULY 4)

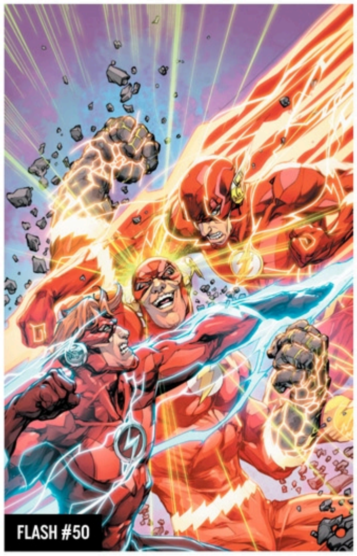
Nijiro Jin always hated his weak and easily injured human body. But does Vic Stone offer the final ingredient he needs to transfer himself into a digital life? Cyborg must delete this new threat with the power to transfer from body to body and take control of entire militaries, or face being controlled himself.
Marv Wolfman (w) Tom Derenick (a)

DAMAGE #7 (JULY 18)

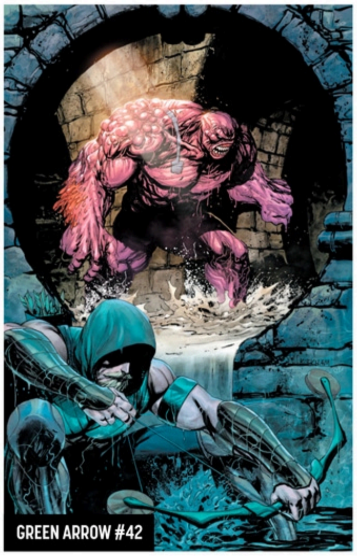
Ethan Avery is Damage, the monstrous brute with unlimited strength for an hour at a time. That's the (semi) good news. The bad...? Ethan's on the run from the army that transformed him. Mr. Leash's metahuman tactical squad is hot on Avery's trail. What could go wrong when a bunch of bloodthirsty super-soldiers take on the rampaging, unstoppable monstrosity called Damage? PLUS: What is Colonel Jonas' gut-wrenching reason for running the top-secret superhuman chop shop? Secrets are revealed in Part One of the new story arc "Scuttled."
Robert Venditti (w), Diogenes Neves & Trevor Scott (a)

DEATHSTROKE #33 (JULY 4)

Forced to team with Deathstroke, a man he loathes, Damian Wayne must discover the truth of his lineage. Is he really Bruce Wayne's son, or is Slade Wilson his true father? As Batman draws closer to finding them both, Deathstroke must



FLASH #50



GREEN ARROW #42

complete a hit, while Robin shadows the killer-for-hire.
Christopher Priest (w) Ed Benes (a)

DETECTIVE COMICS #984 (JULY 11)

Batman called Black Lightning to Gotham for help with a very specific case–so you'd think he'd act a LITTLE bit like he wanted him there, right? What is Batman hiding from Jefferson Pierce? (What ISN'T Batman hiding from everyone, really, but let's not get sidetracked.) It looks like he's in touch with somebody else from their mutual past, and he doesn't want Black Lightning to know about it - and that operative might be in VERY far over their head!
Bryan Hill (w) Philippe Briones (a)

DETECTIVE COMICS #985 (JULY 25)

Black Lightning, The Signal, and Cassandra Cain are working very well together...but now they're up against a foe who can tap directly into their worst emotions and play them like music! When you've seen the kinds of horrors these poor souls have seen, there's plenty of trauma to work with...and with that, you can turn these heroes into deadly weapons! Meanwhile, Batman's "side project" has been revealed–what are the Brainiac Files, how did the events of NO JUSTICE allow Batman to get his hands on them, and what, exactly, does he plan to do with them?
Bryan Hill (w) Philippe Briones (a)

FLASH #50 (JULY 11)

It's the lightning-fueled finale of "Flash War"! Zoom adopts two new Speed Force powers into his arsenal against both Barry Allen and Wally West. What are these strange new powers? What can they do? And how will this haunt the Scarlet Speedster long after "Flash War" ends? It's the power of two Flashes pitted against the seemingly unstoppable Hunter Zolomon!
Joshua Williamson (w), Howard Porter (a)

FLASH #51 (JULY 25)

As the dust settles in the wake of FLASH WAR, the Flash and his family of speedsters try to pick up the pieces of what's left. But bad blood can run deep. This is the one race the Flash Family can't win!
Joshua Williamson (w), Scott Kolins (a)

GREEN ARROW #42 (JULY 4)

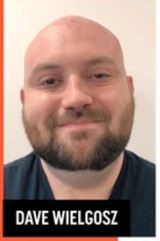
It's Parasite Season for Green Arrow. The Emerald Archer must hunt down the power-sapping purple powerhouse–alone, in a maximum-security prison, running low on arrows–and after the tapeworm terror feasts on a buffet full of metahuman criminals.
Mairghread Scott (w), Matthew Clark (a)

GREEN LANTERNS #50 (JULY 4)

"Something is amiss." That's what the Guardians believe. But even they cannot see the darkness growing inside the Central Power Battery...an infection. One that will have enormous repercussions within the entire Green Lantern Corps. Making matters worse, in light of recent events, Jessica Cruz questions her place within the Green Lantern Corps, contemplating leaving it behind. And her partner Simon Baz is stung so much by her confession, he may let her go...
Dan Jurgens (w), Mike Perkins (a)

HOT TICKET

DC Comics staffers pick their personal must-reads for July.

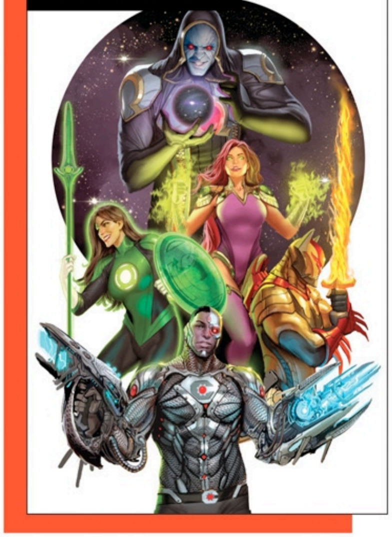


DAVE WIELGOSZ

NAME: Dave Wielgosz
AGE: 25
WHAT I DO: "As assistant editor in the Batman comics line I set schedules, scout new talent and am king of reference."
FAVORITE COMICS: "Grant Morrison and Frank Quitely's ALL STAR SUPERMAN, Denny O'Neil and Denys Cowan's THE QUESTION and Grant Morrison's SEVEN SOLDIERS OF VICTORY."
SUPERPOWER: "Sonic talking–I'm the loudest voice in any room or county I step into." [*Editorial note: yep.*]
EXCITED ABOUT IN JULY (AND IT CAN'T BE A BOOK YOU'RE WORKING ON. NO FREE PLUGS!): "JUSTICE LEAGUE ODYSSEY is going to be a special book. Cyborg, Starfire, Green Lantern Jessica Cruz, Azrael and...DARKSEID?! In space? Exploring the immense magnitude of the DC cosmos? I'm there.

"Then you tell me that it's going to be written by Joshua Williamson (THE FLASH), who brings a strong combination of intelligence and love to everything he writes, and that art duties are being handled by Stjepan Sejic (AQUAMAN), whose design sense and sequential storytelling is magnificent? I'm already a die-hard fan of this book." ■

JUSTICE LEAGUE ODYSSEY #1



MIRACLE WORKERS

MISTER MIRACLE artist Mitch Gerads runs down the artists who inspire his work on the offbeat New Gods series

MITCH GERADS

Merging the epic four-color boldness of Jack Kirby's FOURTH WORLD with the deeper, humane storytelling that writer Tom King brings to Scott Free, Big Barda and the rest of the Fourth World is no easy feat. But which artists served as muses to artist Mitch Gerads' ministrations on MISTER MIRACLE? He was kind enough to send the answers via Boom Tube:

JACK KIRBY "Kirby is one of those artists that, while I don't think I take much visual cue from in my work, there's an undertone—a spirit—to Kirby's work that I've become obsessed with on MISTER MIRACLE. There's a true magic to it. It's pop art with purpose and heart."

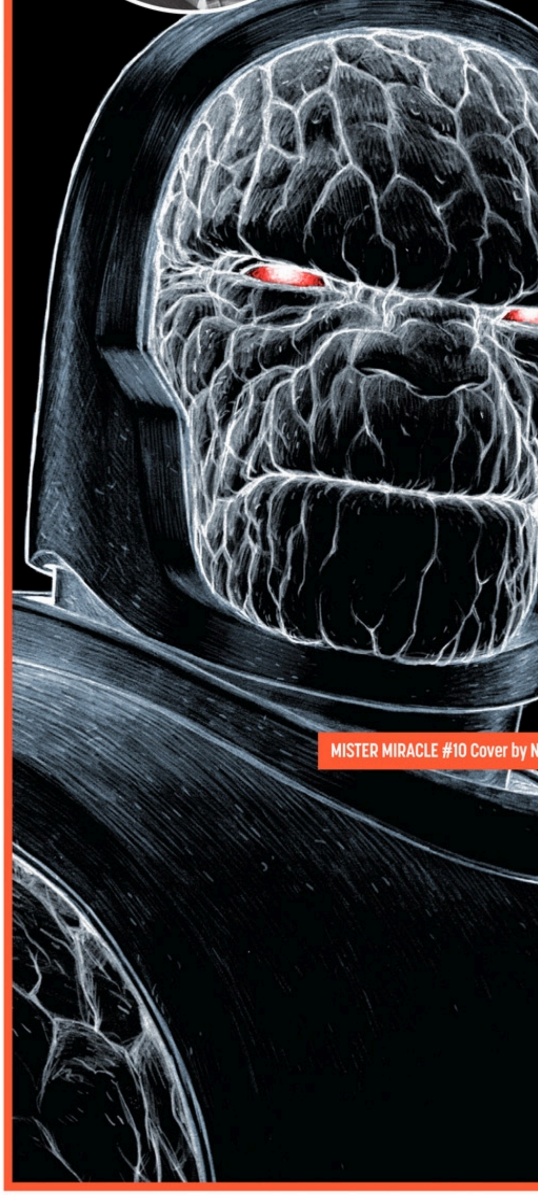
JOHN PAUL LEON "My favorite comic book artist, bar none. While the majority of comics artists focus solely on big, bold character shots, JP gives all his energy to the scene. He tells stories through setting and it instantly transports you to where you need to be."

LEE WEEKS "Lee somehow presents the definitive versions of every character he draws. Especially his male characters: they're big, bold, stocky and muscular without having more muscles than the human body is supposed to have. Every time I draw Batman or Superman, I'm chasing that Lee Weeks look."

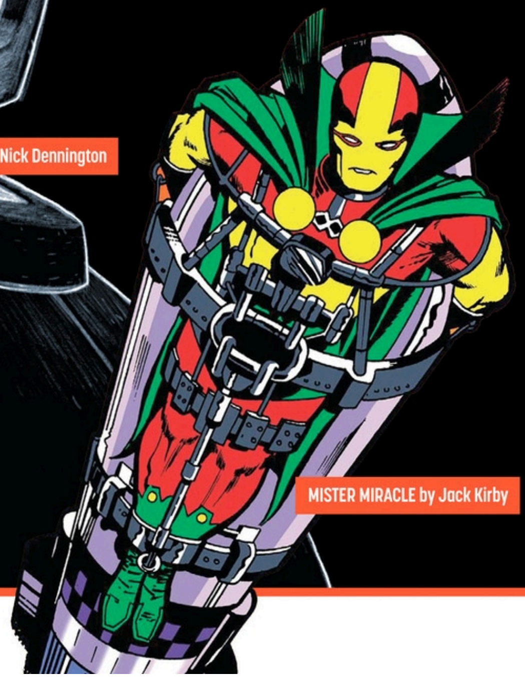
CLAY MANN "Everything I said about Lee is the same for Clay. The only difference is that it's twice as frustrating because Clay is the same age as me. (Literally the same birthday and year!)"

ADAM HUGHES "If you take a second and just really look at an Adam Hughes illustration, you see that he is truly one of our great American illustrators. Like [Norman] Rockwell, he often finds a way to tell an entire story in one image and his facial expressions are unparalleled in this industry." ■

MISTER MIRACLE #11 hits stands July 11.



MISTER MIRACLE #10 Cover by Nick Dennington



MISTER MIRACLE by Jack Kirby

HAWKMAN #2

THE HELLBLAZER #24

JUSTICE LEAGUE #3

GREEN LANTERNS #51 (JULY 18)

A murderer stands within the Green Lantern Corps' ranks as tensions rise between Simon and Jessica. Their rings seem to say the other committed the crime…

Dan Jurgens (w), Mike Perkins (a)

HAL JORDAN AND THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS #48 (JULY 11)

Green Lanterns fighting alongside the Guardians of the Universe! The murderous Darkstars arrive en masse at Mogo to wipe out the Corps for good, so it's all-out war to save the GL HQ. Meanwhile, Green Lanterns Hal Jordan, John Stewart, Guy Gardner and Kyle Rayner make their respective battle plans, but time's running out for a miracle. Can we get more Daylight Saving Time in July to get that extra hour? Our brave boys in green are gonna need it.

Robert Venditti (w), Rafa Sandoval

HAL JORDAN AND THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS #49 (JULY 25)

Allied with evil! With all hope failing, the desperate Green Lantern Corps must ally itself with the monstrous Hector Hammond against the unstoppable might of the Darkstars. It's a suicide mission straight to the homeworld of the Controllers, the puppet masters pulling the Darkstars' strings. Who will survive? Get your rings charged to 100 percent for the penultimate conclusion of "Darkstars Rising"!

Robert Venditti (w), Rafa Sandoval & Jordi Tarragona (a)

HARLEY QUINN #45 (JULY 4)

While on a tropical vacation, Harley is kidnapped by two Female Furies from Apokolips and gets an offer she can't refuse: join the Furies, get superpowers and do anything she wants! A sweet deal, and all Harley has to do in return is hunt down a rogue Fury, Petite Tina. The bad news: Petite Tina's moniker is IRONIC, and she's huge! Hope that hammer got an upgrade, Harley.

Sam Humphries (W), John Timms (A)

HARLEY QUINN #46 (JULY 18)

It's Fury vs. Fury in a furious showdown that's sure to bring the fury! Harley's tasked with bringing in rogue Female Fury Petite Tina—except, turns out, the reason she failed as a Fury is because she's not furious ENOUGH! She's kind, good-hearted and oppressed—and Harley's the one oppressing her. Now Harley's caught between a rock and a hard place: give up her amazing superpowers and free Tina and the other oppressed Lowlies of Apokolips, or keep bashing stuff with a super-hammer and having fun. What's a girl to do?!

Sam Humphries (W), John Timms (A)

HAWKMAN #2 (JULY 11)

Carter Hall is Hawkman, the resurrected warrior who's lived a thousand lifetimes. But what happens when one of those past lives comes looking for Carter Hall? Deepening the mystery is an ancient parchment in alien hieroglyphics revealing that an unexpected, familiar name is on Earth hunting the Hawkman. The past must die for the future to live!

Robert Venditti (w), Bryan Hitch (a)

THE HELLBLAZER #24 (JULY 25)

What would you sacrifice to save someone from damnation? The final chapter of "The Good Old Days" storyline looks to put the final (?) nail in John's coffin. Preparing to say goodbye to this mortal coil, John is oddly introspective, brooding over an ex-lover who's possessed by demons. Since she can't be exorcised, she's bound for Hell—unless John makes the ultimate sacrifice and takes her place. Pack light, J.C.—we hear it's warm where you're going.

Tim Seeley (w), Davide Fabbri (a)

IMMORTAL MEN #4 (JULY 11)

Can Immortal Man hope to defeat Infinite Woman? Armed with a weapon courtesy of METAL's The Batman Who Laughs, the Infinite Woman takes aim against the immortals. It's the House of Conquest versus the House of Action in the oldest secret war in the DCU—now revealed to the world!

James Tynion IV (w), Tyler Kirkham (a)

JUSTICE LEAGUE #3 (JULY 4)

John Stewart: Ultraviolet Lantern? Believe it! Under the influence of the Ultraviolet Spectrum, Stewart engages in some ultraviolence against his teammates Flash, Wonder Woman and Aquaman. Meanwhile, the rest of the League investigates the scene of the fallen Source Wall fragment, and encounters not only a horde of giant monsters, but a pair of longtime archenemies using stolen Atom technology to literally get under their skin. All this and…the Turtle?

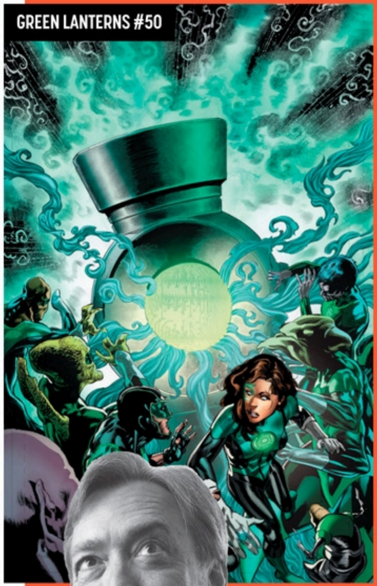
Scott Snyder (w), Jorge Jimenez (a)

JUSTICE LEAGUE #4 (JULY 18)

What is hidden in the darkest depths of the ocean and farthest reaches of space

THE FAST FIVE

New GREEN LANTERNS writer Dan Jurgens discusses finally writing the Corps, overcoming fear and his top-secret mystery villain


GREEN LANTERNS #50

DC NATION: IS THIS REALLY YOUR FIRST TIME WRITING A GREEN LANTERN BOOK? WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG?

JURGENS: It's funny, because when [DC Publisher] Dan DiDio and I started talking about this, he said the same thing! People think I have, because in DEATH OF SUPERMAN, I was the guy who destroyed Coast City, which was big for the Green Lantern, then followed up in ZERO HOUR–with Parallax as the villain.

GREEN LANTERNS ARE ALL ABOUT OVERCOMING FEAR. WHAT'S THE BIG THREAT IN YOUR UPCOMING ISSUES?

We're playing this mysteriously here, but the title of the arc is "Evil's Might" and the Green Lanterns have to deal with an enemy within. Finding an insidious threat in the Corps.

WHAT'S YOUR TAKE ON THE TWO "ROOKIE" LANTERNS, JESSICA CRUZ AND SIMON BAZ?

Simon exists a little more on the edge. I always liked that he carried the gun when we first saw him. That spoke to the character–that he couldn't quite trust this magical ring and what it could do.

Jess has this sense of growing confidence that's there for her. We've seen a great building and growing of her journey as Green Lantern. I really want to continue to play with that.

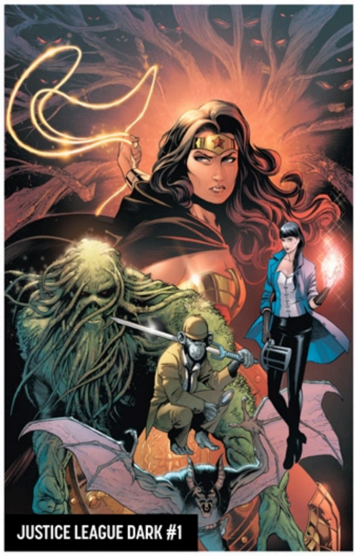
WHAT LANTERNS WILL YOU FOCUS ON BESIDES JESS AND SIMON?

I have always had a great deal of fun with Guy [Gardner], going back to when I was writing and drawing [JUSTICE LEAGUE] long ago. I've always loved Hal Jordan. And we have to have John Stewart in the mix–to so many people he is the Green Lantern, thanks to the Justice League cartoon. I definitely want to explore them, as well as how they integrate into the larger Corps.

WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT YOUR PARTNER ON ART?

We have Mike Perkins as artist on the book–we're old pals and I've been looking forward to working with him for a long time. The work he's generating for the Annual is incredible and I can't wait for fans to see what he's bringing to GREEN LANTERNS. I'm really looking forward to a dynamic collaboration here. ■

DAN JURGENS


JUSTICE LEAGUE DARK #1

doesn't even compare to the insidious secrets buried in the pasts of Flash, Green Lantern, and Martian Manhunter! While the rest of the League battles to save their friends before all of reality unravels, the citizens of Earth make a startling decision...to join the LEGION OF DOOM!
Scott Snyder (w), Jorge Jimenez (a)

JUSTICE LEAGUE DARK #1 (JULY 25)

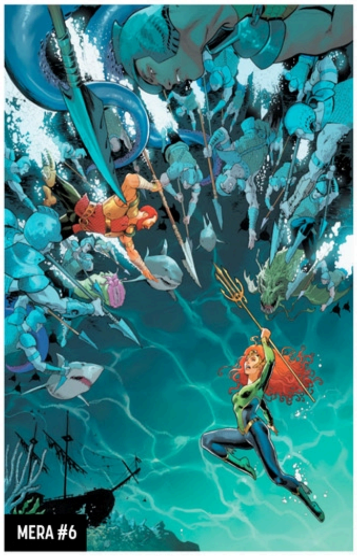
From the pages of JUSTICE LEAGUE: NO JUSTICE! Earth's magic once belonged to them. Now they want the magic back. But who exactly *are* they? It's up to the new Justice League Dark to find out and stop this nightmarish new threat at all costs! After the events of NO JUSTICE, team leader Wonder Woman guides the misfit magic mix of Zatanna, Swamp Thing, Man-Bat and Detective Chimp against enemies too fantastic even for the Justice League. Plus, what awful things are coming through the Tree of Wonder? Dark days ahead...
James Tynion IV (w), t/k (a)

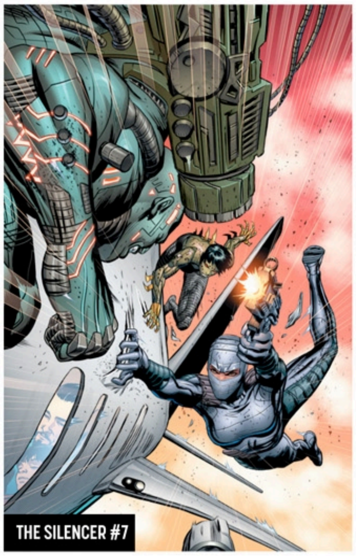
JUSTICE LEAGUE ODYSSEY #1 (JULY 11)

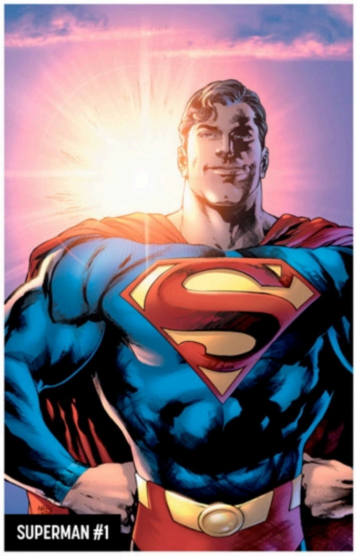
Spinning out of NO JUSTICE, when a cosmic menace threatens worlds beyond our own in the Ghost Sector, it falls to a new Justice League team to answer the call to battle! Cyborg, Starfire, Green Lantern Jessica Cruz and an out-of-his-element Azrael head to deep space inside a commandeered Brainiac Skull Ship.
Joshua Williamson (w), Stjepan Sejic (a)

MAN OF STEEL #6 (JULY 4)

As the epic miniseries draws to a close, Superman must face the man who claims


MERA #6


THE SILENCER #7


SUPERMAN #1

to have "cleansed" Krypton. Can Clark put an end to a being mad enough to destroy a planet? Plus, the final explanation of what happened to Lois Lane and Jon Kent is revealed in this 32-page extravaganza of both physical and emotional punches to Superman.
Brian Michael Bendis (w) Jason Fabok (a)

MERA #6 (JULY 25)

Ocean Master means murder! Aquaman's half-brother Orm continues his underwater insurrection with his sights set on Xebel, the watery kingdom nestled deep within the Bermuda Triangle. Will Mera's home fall to Ocean Master? It's mano-a-Mera when the Mighty Mermaid duels Orm in the finest royal tradition, with her ward Tula forced to marry the evil Nereus if she loses. Don't miss this finale to the six-issue miniseries, which flows directly into AQUAMAN #38!
Dan Abnett (w), Lan Medina & Norm Rapmund (a)

NEW CHALLENGERS #3 (JULY 18)

It's the New Challengers versus the Old Challengers! The original Challengers infiltrate Challengers Mountain to uncover the true identity of the Professor who's been manipulating both teams. As dark matter leaks from the Dark Multiverse, the New Challengers travel to the prehistoric underworld of Skartaris, stomping grounds of Travis Morgan, the Warlord!
Scott Snyder & Aaron Gillespie (w), Andy Kubert & Klaus Janson

RED HOOD & THE OUTLAWS #24 (JULY 11)

Bizarro is getting...worse. Worser? Worsest. The backward Superman's diminishing cognitive state causes problems for the rest of the Outlaws. Complicating things is the Red Hood's vendetta against the Penguin. Can the Outlaws stop Jason Todd from crossing a line he'll never come back from?
Scott Lobdell (w), Dexter Soy & Alisson Borges (a)

SIDEWAYS #6 (JULY 11)

Thanks to his dimension-hopping powers, Derek James finds himself having a terrible, horrible, no-good, very bad week. As life-changing secrets are revealed, one missed phone call sets in motion a tragedy so personal for Sideways that no one will see it coming (you've been warned). A can't-miss issue as Sideways' life continues to go...well, you know.
Dan DiDio & Justin Jordan (w), Brett Booth (a)

THE SILENCER #7 (JULY 25)

Reeling from her previous encounter with Talia al Ghul, The Silencer wants a permanent end to hostilities vis a vis several bullets into al Ghul's face. But first, a family vacation. When another pair of high-powered killers, Cradle & Grave, end up on the same flight out of town, The Silencer has no choice but to take them both out before the plane lands...or risk the underworld discovering that she has a family! It's terror at twenty thousand bullets in *FLY HARD WITH A VENGEANCE*!
Dan Abnett (w), Viktor Bogdanovic (a)

SUICIDE SQUAD #44 (JULY 11)

Guest-starring Batman! The noose tightens on the Squad in Part Four of the "Constriction" storyline, and someone may be dancing at the end of a rope before it's all said and done. The murderous Kobra looks to put the squeeze on Deadshot's daughter, Zoe. Even with the Dark Knight's backup, will the Squad be ready for Kobra's bait-and-switch?
Rob Williams (w), Eduardo Pansica & Julio Ferreira (a)

SUPERMAN #1 (JULY 11)

A bold new chapter for the greatest superhero of all time begins here, as superstar writer Brian Michael Bendis and art great Ivan Reis begin their run on SUPERMAN. The fallout of the MAN OF STEEL miniseries has Clark Kent looking at the world through new eyes...with new ideas on what Superman could and should do for the city of Metropolis and the planet Earth. His first job? Getting the entire planet out of the Phantom Zone.
Brian Michael Bendis (w) Ivan Reis (a)

TEEN TITANS #20 (JULY 4)

Batman? No idea what he's doing. Superman? A rube. Wonder Woman? Whatever. Damian Wayne is Robin, and he's done with the bleeding-heart approach favored by the heroes of the senior circuit. New plan of action: recruit a new set of Teen Titans, including Kid Flash, Red Arrow and newbies Roundhouse, Djinn and...wait, Lobo has a daughter?! Then build something in secret deep beneath the headquarters of the new Teen Titans HQ. Secret from his teammates, secret from even Batman. A secret that will have you feeling bad for the bad guys.
Adam Glass (w) Bernard Chang (a)

GOING VIRAL

The dark web invades the Dark Night(wing)

BENJAMIN PERCY

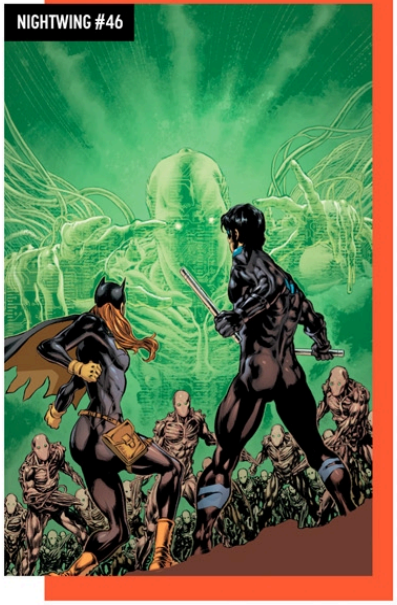
A new high-tech corporation investing in Blüdhaven claims it's the cure for what ails the struggling and crumbling city, but Nightwing learns it's a very hostile takeover in July 4's NIGHTWING #46.

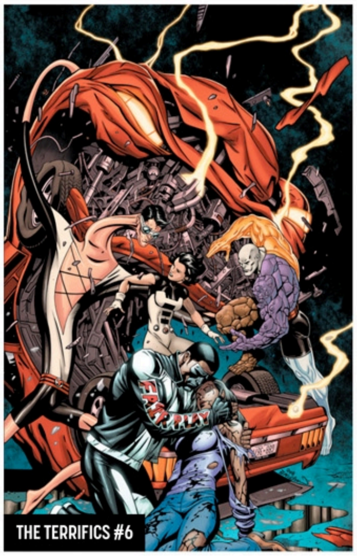
"A struggling section of Blüdhaven has been bought up, torn down, and rebuilt by the tech company Mirage into a series of 3-D printed, pre-fabricated buildings, all the same design," explains writer Benjamin Percy. "A virtual city that can change constantly. Digital gentrification. It can be snowbound with Christmas decorations or it can feature ornate stonework or it can be a neon-lit futurescape with greenery spilling out of hovering pots and alien birds darting swiftly through the air.

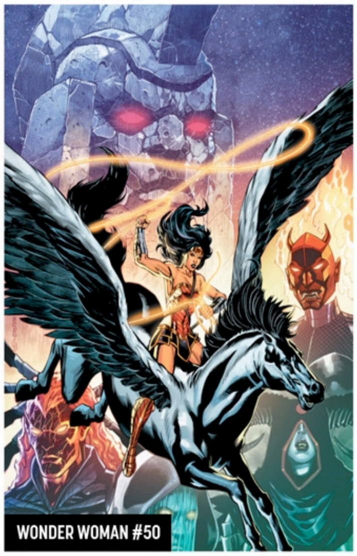
"Something predatory is going on behind the scenes: Wyrm–who we have only seen as a projection–is the mastermind behind it," continues Percy, who teams up with artist Christopher Moneyham for the issue. "His foot soldiers are on the scene–The Terminals. Think of them as mobile versions of the buildings. They can appear, with a holographic makeover, as anyone. Your neighbor or friend or lover." ■

Pick it up all for FREE at your local retailer on July 4!

NIGHTWING #46




THE TERRIFICS #6


WONDER WOMAN #50

THE TERRIFICS #6 (JULY 25)

No one escapes Element World! The Terrifics find themselves out of their element (ZING!) when battling to save a town turned into elemental monsters. With Metamorpho and Mr. Terrific out of commish, Phantom Girl battles the Kingdom of Gas (insert joke here), while Plastic Man tries to survive the Domain of Rock by cranking it up to 11. All this, and the source of the Terrifics' terrible tragedies has one more masterstroke: Tom Strong must die!

Jeff Lemire (w), Joe Bennett (a)

TITANS #23 (JULY 11)

Can anything stop the Metagene Pandemic unleashed by the events of NO JUSTICE? The all-new Titans are on the case. Roll call: Nightwing, Donna Troy, Raven, Natasha Irons, Beast Boy and Miss Martian! But can their combined might stand against new super-powered weapons of mass destruction birthed by the Metagenes? And (SPOILERS!) how do the events of TEEN TITANS #20 come back to haunt the Titans? New enemies are out for blood in part one of "The Spark."

Dan Abnett (w), Brandon Peterson (a)

THE UNEXPECTED #2 (JULY 4)

A rescue mission goes awry, and the heroes from the DCU's shadows confront a new crisis when Neon and the Unexpected must disable a Multiversal Dirty Bomb threatening Earth Prime itself! The fallout from METAL continues to unfold, so expect more of THE UNEXPECTED!

Steve Orlando (w), Cary Nord (a)

WONDER WOMAN #50 (JULY 11)

A new pantheon of gods has been born! But who are they? Where did they come from? What do they want? All questions for Wonder Woman, because it was the Amazon Princess who accidentally brought them to life. Will it fall to Diana to end their existence as well? Meanwhile, Wonder Woman's brother Jason learns his true purpose.

James Robinson (w), Jesus Merino (a)

WONDER WOMAN #51 (JULY 25)

Is Man's World ready for Wonder Woman to bring Amazonian justice to today's society? Guest writer Steve Orlando (JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA) delves into that very heady theme in "Transformation Island," which sees Diana visiting the small-time crook known as Mayfly in "jail" over the course of several years. How do these visits impact Diana and Mayfly?

Steve Orlando (w), Laura Braga (a) ■

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JULY 4

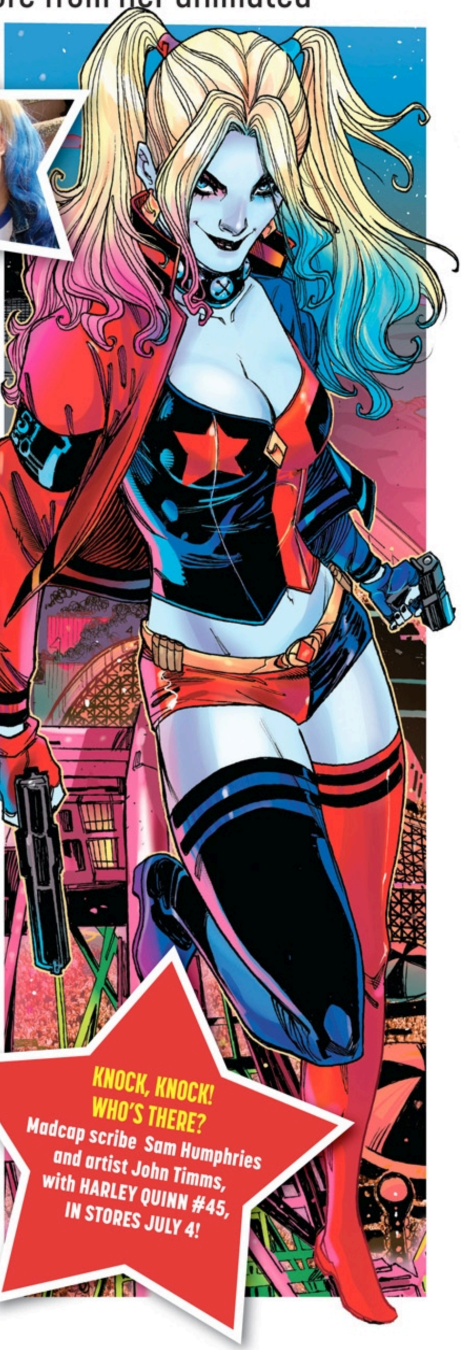
QUINN-ESSENTIALS

New HARLEY QUINN scribe Sam Humphries runs down how his favorite pasty-faced protagonist influenced pop culture from her animated roots to video games and film

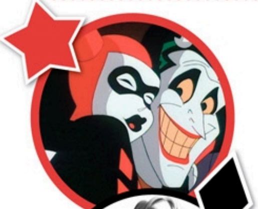
Harley Quinn stands out as one of DC's most popular... villains? Heroes? Uh...antiheroes? Whatever.

While she may defy easy labels, the occasional Batman villain, Suicide Squad member and former main squeeze to The Joker is a petite, pale phenomenon. Be it comics, animation, live-action movies or video games, Harley conquered them all.

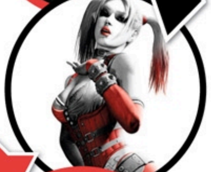
But which Clown Princess is best? We sat down with incoming HARLEY QUINN writer Sam Humphries to get the straight poop on HQ's various incarnations.



KNOCK, KNOCK! WHO'S THERE?
Madcap scribe Sam Humphries and artist John Timms, with HARLEY QUINN #45, IN STORES JULY 4!



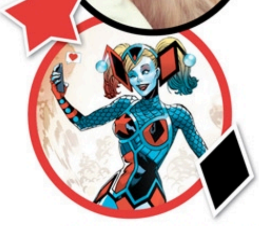
BATMAN: THE ANIMATED SERIES "Classic Harley. The OG Quinn. The Cadillac of Harleys," proclaims Humphries. "Did you know that Harley as a girl's name spiked after her introduction in 1992? I don't remember a spike in kids named 'Batman' back in 1939! I think it's clear who's the more popular character!"



ARKHAM VIDEO GAMES "No lie, I think the Arkham Asylum game is one of the best Batman anythings EVER. Yeah, I put it up there with Batman: Year One. Harley is a lot of fun in this, and [it's] the first iteration to acknowledge the importance of multiple belts to [Harley's] canon," jokes Humphries of the pixelated version's penchant for over-accessorizing. "In my series, she will be wearing 27 belts at all times."

MARGOT ROBBIE IN "SUICIDE SQUAD" "[She] pulls off a great performance with a lot of depth. There's a moment in the film where she's crying in the rain, and as soon as she sees the Squad, she puts a smile on her face. There's not even a line of dialogue–but it speaks volumes. I hear Robbie's voice when I write my Harley scripts," admits Humphries. "

HARLEY THE POM "This is Vertigo Editor Andy Khouri's dog, whom he named after Harley Quinn. Harley the Pom is very smart and very sweet. Whenever I'm stuck on a Harley script, I think of what Harley the Pom would want, and I throw a rawhide stick at my laptop. It never works, and I keep ruining laptops. Writing hack: don't do this."



COMING UP: HARLEY BREAKS THE FOURTH WORLD "Travel shows are really popular, so we're taking Harley to that well-known vacation spot, Apokolips! Naturally, Harley finds herself right at home as Queen Wild Card on the planet Bad Ass. John Timms draws a great Fourth World Harley, Granny Goodness, and more DC Universe surprises to come. Just bring a bulletproof vest, football helmet, combat machete...hmm, what else?...spiked mace, T-shirt cannon–yeah that will keep you safe for the first issue. Maybe." ■

FROM THE *NEW YORK TIMES* BEST-SELLING AUTHOR OF *THIS ONE SUMMER*
MARIKO TAMAKI
AND EISNER AWARD-NOMINATED ARTIST
JOËLLE JONES
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